



February 2026

Number 02-26

Monthly General Meeting/Luncheon
Saturday February 21st @ 9:30 am
Harding Center, Carlsbad
Guest Speaker: Maureen Backe - Senior Fraud Issues



Maureen Backe holds a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering and an MBA, and is a retired product marketing and developer relations professional with deep experience in mobile technologies. Her career includes roles at AT&T and TomTom, and she has taught Internet and digital technology courses at UCLA Extension. She volunteers with AARP, educating adults on fraud prevention; supports the Natural History Museum as a naturalist on whale-watching boats; as well as Birch Aquarium. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, pickleball, and traveling.

Senior Fraud Summary

Senior fraud is a significant issue affecting the elderly, with millions falling victim to various scams each year. Common scams include romance, lottery, and sweepstakes schemes, often targeting seniors due to their trust and financial savings. Seniors are less likely to report fraud due to fear of losing confidence or shame, but they can report scams to the Federal Trade Commission or the National Elder Fraud Hotline for assistance. The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) provides a platform to report elder fraud, and the DOJ had designated March 6, 2025, as National Slam the Scam Day to raise awareness about scams and educate the public on how to avoid them.

Co-Presidents' Message



Belle and Seena's message for February is a call out to our members. The COV branch is facing a situation that needs to be addressed within a couple of months or the alternative of folding the branch or joining another may have to be considered.

We have been fortunate to have a wonderful board, working hard to support AAUW's mission and providing programs that have been informative. COV has been exemplary in providing scholarships for young women, Tech Trek for middle school girls, and interest groups for our membership. Our board officers and chairs have taken on a variety of roles and at this time many are stepping back from their board positions. Our nominating committee is now tasked with filling many board positions and are calling out to our members to consider accepting a position on the board. You will have the support of a co-chair, and we are looking for committee members to provide additional support where needed.

The following is the list of positions open for your consideration. If you have any questions and are interested in providing the support needed to continue the COV branch as it exists today, please contact Seena Trigas or Ele Lavender, members of the nominating committee. The committee must present their slate to the March board and branch meeting. Positions on the Board: Co-Officers and Chairs are encouraged. Some positions not on the list have already been filled. The need for co-chairs will keep the position on this list until it has been filled with both a chair and co-chair. Elected Officers: President, Membership, Fund, Secretary, Financial Officer. Appointed Officer: Communication, Membership Treasurer

Belle & Seena

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT:

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

AAUW DIVERSITY STATEMENT: In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

CARLSBAD-OCEANSIDE-VISTA BRANCH

Elected Officers:

Co-Presidents 2024-26: BELLE JOHNSON BOHN/SEENA TRIGAS
President Elect: VACANT
Program VPs: ELEANORE LAVENDER, VACANT
Membership VPs: JANET BRYANT/ELLIE BURTON
AAUW Fund VPs: SHARLENE BERGART/SALLY CUMMINS
Co-Secretary: JOYCE KING/MARDI MUSICK
Financial Officer: DENNIS CAPPS

Appointed Officers:

Communications: NANCY HACKERT
Public Policy: MAGGIE WOLFE-JOHNSON
Membership Treasurer: FAYE CAPPS
Parliamentarian: NELLE HEFNER

Appointed Committee Chairs:

Auditor: MARTHA FRAZIER
Governance: NELLE HEFNER
Historian: ELE LAVENDER
Scholarship: MARDI MUSICK
Sunshine: DEBORAH PARKS
Tech Trek: FAYE CAPPS
TTAG: FAYE CAPPS

COV Website: cov-ca.aauw.net
COV E-mail: aauw.cov@gmail.com
COV FACEBOOK: AAUW-COV
State Website: aauw-ca.org
National Website: aauw.org

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Interest Groups

FEBRUARY



CRUNCH BUNCH – Will meet Wednesday, February 18th at 9:30 am at the home of Edith Richman. It is a Vegan Cooking Class. Notify Edith Richman if you have questions: 760-855-1660 or email edithrichman2@gmail.com.

EXPLORING CALIFORNIA – Will meet Monday February 16th at 9:30 am at Joanna Murphy's. Any questions: Contact Debby Parks at bridgebud2@yahoo.com or 760-505-0384.

LUNCH BUNCH – Will resume in March. For Information: Ellie Burton 760-518-8825 or Janet Bryant 760-434-2116.

MOSTLY BOOKS – Will meet Tuesday, February 24th at 1:00 pm at the home of Joanna Murphy. We will discuss *The Frozen River*, by Ariel Lawhon, a historical novel based on the life of 18th century midwife Martha Ballard, who defied the legal system of the times. New members and guests are always welcome. Please contact Leslie Clark at fltc6585@gmail.com.

MYSTERY BOOKS - Will meet Monday, February 2nd at 1:00 pm at Cindy Giguere's home. We will be reading *The Mistress of Bhatia House* by Sujata Massey. For details, contact Sing Baker, 760-644-4732. Or singb@roadrunner.com.

WEDNESDAY WALKERS – Will meet Wednesday February 4th at 10:00 am at Buena Vista Park Trail, 1601 Shadowridge Drive, Vista. Any questions: Belle Johnson Bohn - bjbohn1@mac.com.



LUNCH BUNCH: CIAO RESTAURANTE ITALIANO

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

**Happy
Birthday!!**

Jacqueline Trischman – 11th
Erica Heisler – 12th
Charlotte Germundson – 14th
Kathleen LeMieux – 16th
Sally Cummins – 28th

FEBRUARY



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Meet our Newest Member



Leslie Batson

COMMUNICATIONS:

Time for some turnover. Your Communications Chair will be retiring effective 30 June 2026. Anyone with a moderate amount of *techie* knowledge will enjoy doing the Newsletter, Blasts, Website and Rosters. Keeps you involved with all the AAUW-COV doings and for sure makes you friends with the entire Branch. Please notify Nancy Hackert if you are interested and we can set up a Co-Communications Chair position and a lengthy turnover.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right."

Rosa Parks

UPCOMING EVENTS.....

FEBRUARY 21	ALL ABOUT FRAUD-most recent Sr. scams	Lunch Bunch
MARCH 21	JOINT MEETING- DML @ HC COV Host-Suffragists of California	\$25 Gourmet Brunch Exploring CA
APRIL 11	AAUW FUND SPEAKER: TBA AAUW-COV Annual Meeting	Mystery Books
APRIL 18	ZOOM CA AAUW MEETING	N/A
MAY 16	THE ARTS AND ARTISTS	Mostly Books
JUNE 13	INSTALLATION LUNCHEON	\$ TBA

***Photos of our events & happenings
are all posted on our Facebook
account. "AAUW-COV"***

FUND

Meissa Harris-Perry was a recipient of a Post Doctoral Fellowship. She recently shared how that changed her life "Very few African American women hold positions of full professor, especially in the field of Political Science. AAUW means everything to me. I am where I am in the academic field now because of AAUW."

She went on to say that she will play it forward, supporting in any way she can the undergraduate, graduate and faculty level scholars. This is another example of what your dollars given to FUND can do. As of the end of November, our COV branch had given \$2755.00 this year. Your FUND CO-CHAIRS thank you for your generous contributions. You make a difference!

PUBLIC POLICY

TAKE ACTION IN 2026: SIGN UP FOR LOBBY DAYS & THE SCHOOL BOARD PROJECT SYMPOSIUM **Lobby Days 2026 - A New Approach for Greater Impact**

Calling all AAUW Advocates! All members are encouraged to participate in Lobby Days 2026 and help advance our priority legislation, including an AAUW California-sponsored bill package focused on human trafficking and enforcement. This year, we are taking a significantly new approach to Lobby Days, **with in-district meetings serving as our primary strategy**.

To be involved in this year's Lobby Days, please complete and return this [Sign-up Form](#) by **January 23, 2026**, and let us know whether you prefer to participate **in-person, in the district office, or virtually via Zoom**. We are also seeking volunteers to serve as **Team Leaders** - a critical role responsible for scheduling district office meetings, coordinating team members, and ensuring everyone understands their tasks and logistics.

Key Dates:

- **January 30, 2026** - Team Rosters, including Team Leaders, will be published
- **February 9, 2026** - Team Leaders begin scheduling in-district meetings (Recommended lead time is a minimum of 45 days)
- **March 16, 2026** - Bill packets (bill language + talking points) available
- **March 23, 2026** - Lobby Days Training Webinar
- **March 26-April 6, 2026** - Legislature's Spring Recess
- **March 27-April 17, 2026** - Meeting window for in-district meetings
- **April 8-10, 2026** - Meeting window for Zoom meetings

For more information about the Lobby Days event, including FAQs, see this detailed [article](#). infographic explaining the policy development and legislative advocacy process.

The School Board Project: Defending the Frontline of Democracy

Please join our virtual symposium on **January 31, 2026, 9 am to 12:30 pm PT** and learn:

- How the federal government's restrictive laws impact California's protective laws
- How to effectively advocate for AAUW values with your local school board members
- Why advocating on behalf of LGBTQ+ students is a crucial AAUW priority
- How to support progressive school board members in conservative districts
- How to respond to parents' concerns with accurate information
- How to form and sustain valuable coalitions in your district with like-minded organizations
- How to identify, recruit, and support school board candidates who share AAUW's values

See the [flyer](#), and **register for the event [HERE](#)**.

WEBINARS AND EVENTS

- AAUW Silicon Valley Branch will host a virtual event on reproductive rights featuring [Leah Litman](#), host of the popular [Strict Scrutiny](#) podcast - **Thursday, Jan 22, 2026, 1-2 pm. Register [HERE](#)**.
- AAUW California School Board Project presents a Half-Day Symposium: *Defending the Frontline of Democracy* - **Saturday, Jan 31, 2026, 9-12:30 pm via Zoom. Register [HERE](#)**.



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Website: cov-ca.aauw.net
Email: aauw.cov@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Mystery Books 1:00 pm @ Cindy Giguere's	3	4 Wednesday Walkers 10:00 am @ Buena Vista Park Trail	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Exploring California 9:30 am @ Joanna Murphy's	17	18 Crunch Bunch 9:30 am @ Edith Richman's	19	20	21 Branch Meeting 9:30 am @ Harding Center
22	23	24 Mostly Books 1:00 pm @ Joanna Murphy's	25	26	27	28