

December 2025



December Presidents Message

*"The new year stands before us like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written."
Maya Angelou*

There will be no General Meeting this month, and we hope your calendar is full of holiday events or however you enjoy spending these cooler shortest days of the year. Many of us anticipate celebrating Christmas with its family traditions and historic religious dedications, and Hanukkah with its celebration of lights to dispel the darkness as well as religious feasts and family traditions.

The new year presents a chance to have new experiences, to go places and have introspective thoughts. Our local AAUW strives to have continued friendships, new learning opportunities and giving chances to change the world through our Tech Trek and Golden West College scholarships. Small efforts with great rewards. AAUW members can also contribute to our organization's important mission to advance equity and education for women and girls by contributing to one of three Funds administered by our national HQ.

We now have a sign-up sheet for our Hostess Committee. Two or three people are needed each month to come a bit early to help put on tablecloths and centerpieces. Those same people will stay a bit later after most have left, to remove the centerpieces and discard the disposable tablecloths. We are so fortunate that the church has the tables and chairs in place for us. Have you signed up for your turn?

Take a look at all of our activities in the newsletter and invite a friend to join us. We welcome all of our new members.

Enjoy your holidays and we will see you in January!

Onward to 2026,
Janet Riess and Lisa Swanson



No General Meeting in December

Next Meeting: January 17, 2026

Please join us in January as we hear from Lisa Swanson, Co-President, as she shares her journey into environmental activism and actions that we can all take to protect our beautiful planet for future generations.



Christmas Collage Identities

Thank you to all who submitted photos for our holiday collage.*

Row 1, L to R: Happy Hikers 2024, Terri Elders at Hotel Coronado, Sue McDannel, Beth Callaghan

Row 2: Jones Family (Jeri Goldsbrough) 2016, Janet Riness with grandchildren in Texas, Carolee Focht and husband

Row 3: Barbara Islas family card (!!!), Eleanor Demler family 2004, Miriam Matulich

Row 4: Cheryl Kelly with sisters 2023, Pat Jenkes, Lisa Swanson, Judy Meyer

Row 5: Barbara Smith, Toni Gregory, Fran Thelander, Sandi Guerrero's children 1976

* If you submitted a picture and it was not included, my sincerest apologies! It was a challenge to keep track of the emails submitted amidst all the junk mail!

HOUSE DRAWING



Thank you to all who participated – and especially to Eleanor Demler and her family for donating the homes! Thanks to all, \$1710 was raised for our Tech Trek and Golden West scholarships!!

CONGRATULATIONS!

**DESERT
HOME**
**JERI
GOLDSBROUGH**

**MOUNTAIN
HOME**
**ANN
KAJDASZ**



**Check out our local
branch website!!!**

Authors Luncheon

Planning Meeting



IMPORTANT!

December 4, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Donna Kratter's home
3899 Humboldt Dr.
Huntington Beach

The first meeting for EVERYONE who would like to help with our April 18, 2026 Authors Luncheon will be December 4, 2025 at 10:00am at Donna Kratter's house, 3899 Humboldt Drive, Huntington Beach. We will be making decisions and organizing committees for the auction, decorations, publicity, etc. Remember, this is our primary fund-raising event to be able to send six Tech Trek girls to the 2026 summer STEM camp. We need all the help we can get to make this luncheon a big success. So please bring your talents, ideas and willing hands to Donna's on December 4 - and a huge thanks to all for your past and future help! Ann and Donna

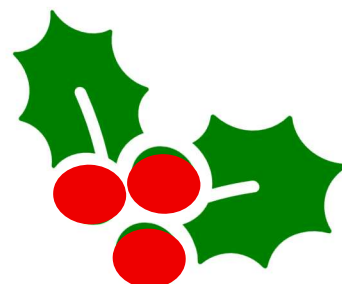
TECH TREK → TTAG

YOUR PARAGRAPH TEXT

Did you enjoy listening to our Tech Trek girls last month? Would you like to get to know them better? They are always truly amazing and fun to work with! We are considering starting a new program called TTAG–Tech Trek Alumni Group. Other branches are reaching out to their alumni offering activities and online workshops as well as using them as mentors for younger girls. But we need help! If you'd like to get involved, please contact me at tgreg8790@gmail.com.

Thanks!
Toni



Friendship Corner



This is a new monthly feature in our Newsletter. It is a friendly forum whereby all members can ask questions and make comments or requests, which will be printed here. Then, any member can contact you directly to respond.

Here are a few fictitious inquiries for inspiration:

- "I'm looking for a gym partner twice a week in H.B." *Jane Doe 555-555-5555*
- "Can someone show or tell me how to set up Zelle payments?" *Your name & contact info*
- "I need a ride to the January general meeting." *Your name & contact info*
- "I'm having surgery February 7. Can anyone stop by my house in Seal Beach for 10 minutes a day to check on me that first week home?" *Your name & contact info*
- "How can I get more involved with our committees or charities?" *Your name & contact info*
- "Anyone available for going to brunch Thanksgiving Day?" *Your name & contact info*

These are just a few fabricated examples of what a submission might look like; the topic is up to you. You might want to recommend a great restaurant, book, or travel spot.

To get your question or comment printed here in the monthly Newsletter Friendship Corner, just email one or two sentences plus your full name and contact info, before mid-month to: cherylkelly48@gmail.com. Your subject line MUST say: "AAUW Newsletter Friendship Corner." Then any member can respond to you directly (not via the newsletter). It's as easy as that! Friends are all around us. We just need to ask.

(If you have questions about how this works, text or call Eleanor (714) 715-9789.)



WELCOME

New Members

We are pleased to welcome four new members:

Lizabeth Kerr

I have recently retired after working in the insurance industry and then working for local school district. In my free time I like to go to movies, concerts, museums, read, and spend time with friends and family. Thank you for the warm welcome to the AAUW.

Wanda Gainous

We'll introduce Wanda next month!

Marilyn Palomino

We'll introduce Marilyn next month!

Pam Garrison

I am a Huntington Beach resident, having moved here from Glendale when my husband and I retired. My entire career was in healthcare. For 8 years, I was a registered physical therapist with my degree from Loma Linda University. I then transitioned to healthcare consulting after getting my Master's Degree from UCLA. I worked for the next 25 years providing consulting services to hospitals in how to best use and implement information technology to improve both administrative and patient care services. I enjoy travel, exploring museums and other interesting sites, reading novels, gardening, cooking and taking my dog on adventures. I am very much looking forward to membership in a wonderful local organization like AAUW where I can assist young women and also create new friendships and enjoy new activities.