



## AAUW Marin Summary Profile, 2019-2020

- **AAUW's mission:** Our mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy and our new strategic plan sets out our national program priorities in four areas: Education, Economic Security, Leadership and Governance. The full plan is posted on our national website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)
- **AAUW Marin Branch Membership:** AAUW organizations at the local level are called "branches." AAUW Marin has approximately 175 members, all with an AA degree or four year degree, and many have graduate degrees. Universities attended and degrees achieved are listed in the branch Roster. Barbara Thomas, Membership Chair: [Bmbestrom@aol.com](mailto:Bmbestrom@aol.com) 415-686-1592
- **Ways to Participate:** We encourage members to attend our monthly branch programs and to participate in one or more interest groups. We also encourage members to contribute to our philanthropic efforts to the extent they feel comfortable, and to engage in advocacy for women and girls by becoming familiar with the issues AAUW supports and, for those who are interested, by actively communicating with local, state and national politicians on issues supported by AAUW. Our monthly newsletters and calendar help keep members informed of activities locally and nationally.
- **Monthly Branch Programs:** Our monthly programs are typically on Saturday mornings, although a few occur in the afternoon or a weekday evening. Members receive reminders of each program via Paperless Post approximately three weeks in advance. Please RSVP! We need to know how many are coming so we can be prepared. Some programs (such as our annual Holiday Lunch) require payment in advance, but many are either free or we request a small donation via pay pal or at the door. Guests are always welcome!
- **Interest Groups:** Our interest groups are an excellent way to meet other women with similar interests. We usually have between fifteen and eighteen interest groups that are active, each of which is open to any member. Contact Olivia Ruel, the Interest Group leader OR the leader(s) listed for the individual groups. Olivia Ruel, Interest Group Chair : [oliviacelello@icloud.com](mailto:oliviacelello@icloud.com) or 603-762-1016
- **Philanthropy:** Our branch members actively support the **AAUW Fund**, the umbrella name for AAUW's operating funds and various national endowments which support AAUW's programs and mission, including significant research on issues of importance to women and girls; salary negotiation workshops; programs to combat gender discrimination in schools; sports programs and careers; graduate fellowships for women; community action grants; leadership training for young women in college; and support for women challenging discrimination in court. Locally, we also raise \$\$ for annual **scholarships** for Marin women: six \$1000 scholarships to women students at College of Marin and 2 larger scholarships to re-entry women at Dominican University. In addition, each year we send eight or nine middle school girls to a weeklong AAUW summer **Tech Trek** program held on the Stanford campus. This unique AAUW program encourages girls entering eighth grade to consider careers in science, math, art and technology (STEAM). In December, branch members generously donate hotel-sized toiletries, warm socks, hats, etc. to assist local organizations **helping the homeless** in Marin.
- **Advocacy:** We encourage members to participate in AAUW's "two-minute activist" program, which alerts members to contact state and national politicians on issues important to AAUW members. This is an easy, online mechanism to speak out almost effortlessly. AAUW also offers periodic webinars and conference calls on public policy issues. Interested members may also sign up for regular emails on AAUW's efforts in the public policy arena. Public Policy issues supported by AAUW are listed on the AAUW national website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). AAUW CA also has public policy priorities for the state, listed at [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org).
- **College/University Partners:** Dominican University and College of Marin are college/university partners of AAUW as a direct result of the efforts of AAUW Marin members. We are starting to build an AAUW presence on these campuses. We want their students to be "e-members" so they can participate in some of the wonderful leadership programs AAUW offers to the college-age set.