

WHAT IS THE AAUW MARIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND?

October 2025

Founded in 2002, the AAUW Marin Scholarship Fund is a separate 501(c)(3) entity, affiliated with AAUW Marin and AAUW.

It started with the Lubamersky family's dream to honor their mother, Ann Ruane Lubamersky and her dedication to and belief in AAUW. The family approached the Branch Board shortly after Ann died in 2000, asking if they could work with the Board to establish a non-profit AAUW scholarship fund to allow donations to be tax-deductible and to build an endowment. The family committed to funding \$10,000; that amount was reached quickly, and contributions continue to this day.

Ann was a college reentry woman before the term existed. Because her dad died when she was in high school, she couldn't attend college but had to get a job to help support the family. 25 years later when her youngest entered kindergarten, she enrolled at College of Marin, completed most of the transferrable classes offered, then went to Dominican, graduating with a degree in Business Administration in 1982. She immediately joined AAUW and went on to hold nearly every office on the AAUW Marin Board including two terms as President and was a named honoree. She would be thrilled that her friends and family named a scholarship in her memory to help future generations of Dominican women create new lives by furthering their education.

AAUW Marin Scholarship Fund also awards scholarships to CoM students with at least 45 transferrable units with a strong preference for awards to be made to women. (CoM will not commit to guaranteeing only women are awarded our scholarships.) Since 2022, most awards been made to women majoring in STEM fields, selected by the STEM cohort of professors.

Hundreds have contributed time and money to the AAUW Marin Scholarship Fund including the Founding Board of Directors:

- Margaret Wallace
- Chris O'Neill
- Mary Mossteller
- Mary Adams
- Nancy Lubamersky

Many additional members have served on the Scholarship Fund Board:

- Nancy Greenfield
- Nora McCallie
- Lillian Donald
- Pat Hager
- Georgia Schall
- SONDY Adams-Wolczak
- Susan Kemper
- Barbara Otto

- Cherie Sorokin
- Elaine Marevich
- Angela Nuckles
- Dale Satake

The Scholarship Fund Board members for 2025-6 are:

- Dottie Burk
- Nancy Lubamersky
- Laura O'Malley
- Sarah Pruden
- Ann Vercoutere
- Katie Wickes
- Leslie Zimring

The primary role for the AAUW Marin Scholarship Fund Board is to manage the funds. Our goals have been to accumulate sufficient principal to allow interest and dividends to fund our college scholarships into perpetuity. We met our most recent goal to have \$100,000 in each endowment last year. The Fund also processes contributions to Tech Trek and NCCWSL to allow those donations to be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

In 2014, faced with very low interest rates, the Scholarship Fund Board determined that professional investment management would be in the best interest of the Fund. The total Fund Balance of approximately \$70,000 was split with half being donated to Dominican University to endow the Ann Ruane Lubamersky AAUW Marin scholarships and half to be managed by the Marin Community Foundation. Our funds managed by MCF can be used for any allowable grant including providing scholarships and awards at College of Marin. Of note, earnings from the two endowments have been reinvested every year; annual branch fundraising efforts have funded all scholarships thus far.

The Board meets twice a year: in Fall to review and endorse or request modification of the Branch goals for scholarship fundraising and in late winter, after the Branch scholarships fundraising effort is completed, to allocate the funds. Discussion is ongoing about asset management and distribution policies.

End of fiscal year results are still being calculated but the two endowments total more than \$205,000.

--- *Nancy Lubamersky*