



# Grapevine Newsletter

June-July-August, 2019

## *Coming Events – Mark Your Calendar!*

Monday, July 22, 2019 ~ 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

### **Annual Potluck Lunch – St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 13601 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga CA**

Join our members -- some of the best cooks around -- at our annual potluck lunch. Bring your favorite salad, a tasty appetizer or an interesting cold dish to share; the branch will furnish beverages and dessert. No need to RSVP – we always have plenty of great food.



Feel free to invite prospective members who might want to learn more about AAUW.



Saturday, September 7, 2019 ~2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

### **Dazzle and Dahlias Nancy Anderson’s garden 1639 Daphne Drive, San Jose CA**

Enjoy Nancy’s garden and browse jewelry tables while you enjoy light refreshments and socializing. Proceeds to benefit the Committee on Homeless Women and Children. More details on page 4 inside!

Saturday, September 14, 2019 ~ 10 AM to 12 Noon

### **Opening Meeting ~ The Terraces, 800 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos CA**

Meet our Tech Trek Campers and find out what the various groups are planning for the year. More details in the next *Grapevine*.

Our Branch website is <https://losgatos-saratoga-ca.aauw/net>

## *Our 2019-2020 Leadership Team*

Our elected officers are as follows:

Secretary	<b>Mara Otlans</b> (253) 202-3307	marafelz@comcast.net
Treasurer	<b>Lynn Sprague</b> (408) 867-9375	lynnsprague@gmail.com
Membership VP	<b>Virginia Turner</b> (408) 866-4234	vturner@sbcglobal.net
Membership Treasurer	<b>Louise Quenon</b> (408) 867-0698	lquenon@comcast.net

We are looking to fill other positions on the Board and invite your suggestions.

### *Meet Mara Otlans ~ Secretary*



When the Soviets came into power in the Baltics during WWII, my parents and older brother joined the masses who fled their homeland of Latvia and somehow arrived in Germany and the safety of the American Zone. It was there, in a displaced persons camp in Esslingen, that I was born. At that time, much of US immigration was handled through sponsorships received from churches and citizen groups willing to provide employment and accommodations for refugees. My mother worked for The Lutheran Federation which sorted many of the sponsorships, and she selected one that fit our family in a region that she thought might be similar in latitude and climate to Latvia. That is how, at the age of 3, I arrived in Tacoma, Washington.

The early years were difficult, but my parents were enterprising, and we soon adapted to American life. My parents were also interested in preserving their culture, so in addition to regular school, we stayed close to the Latvian community and participated in language schools, summer camp, and dance groups. Interestingly, my children and grandchildren continue this connection to this day.

In 1968 I earned a BA degree in Psych from University of Oregon. Fairly quickly thereafter, I married and had two children. I was fortunate to spend their early years as a stay-at-home mom, but I also used this time to earn an MBA at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma.

The majority of my career was in construction and home building, culminating as CFO for a midsize home builder. That was my position during the collapse of the industry in 2008, when my job became a full-time negotiation with banks and lawyers in an ultimately successful attempt to escape bankruptcy. No bankruptcy, but also no future for the industry in the near term, so we closed the doors, and I took that opportunity to retire. *(continued next page)*

*(Mara Otlans – continued from previous page)*

By this time, my children were both residing in California, my son in Menlo Park and my daughter in Santa Cruz. Since both of my parents had passed, they convinced me to join them in 2017, and I now live in Campbell which is half way between them. It is a joy to be close to family, and the California weather and natural beauty is a bonus!

When looking for a community to enhance my new life, AAUW seemed a natural fit. I was familiar with the organization because my mother had belonged in Tacoma. Additionally, several retired friends pointed me toward it. It was great to find a group of intelligent and interesting women who enjoyed reading, hiking, and travel. And to get to know people, I quickly joined the Board as Sunshine Chair and became involved in Scholarship Recipient selection. I have since added Recording Secretary to my duties. I look forward to events and activities and continuing friendships in the coming season!

### ***JEWELRY NEEDED!***

Please donate your "Don't Need Anymore" jewelry to the Committee on Homeless Women and Children to be sold at the upcoming September 7 fundraiser, Dazzle and Dahlias.

For pickup information call JoAn Lambert - 408-867-6237 or Nancy Anderson - 408-982-5731



### ***Directory Updates***

*New members:*

**Bunny Laden** (Glen Gould)  
PO Box 132  
Los Gatos, CA 95031  
Phone: 408-395-0158  
Email: [Laden@mac.com](mailto:Laden@mac.com)

**Andrea Harris**  
1052 Tuscany Place  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
Phone: 408-446-1308  
Email: [AABH@aol.com](mailto:AABH@aol.com)

*New email:*

**Phyllis Chai**      [hidong@pacbell.net](mailto:hidong@pacbell.net)

To correct your address, email or phone number, please contact Louise Quenon at 408-867-0698 or [lquenon@comcast.net](mailto:lquenon@comcast.net).



# DAZZLE & DAHLIAS

Saturday, September 7, 2019  
2:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Nancy Anderson's Garden  
1639 Daphne Drive  
San Jose, CA 95129

- ❖ Fill your jewelry box with new-to-you pieces from the jewelry tables
- ❖ Stroll among the lovely blooms on more than one hundred dahlia plants
- ❖ Enjoy light refreshments
- ❖ Seating will be provided



**Price: \$25**

Make checks payable to ISPF - AAUW

**Reservations are required**

Call or email Sumi Tanabe  
6498 Bibel Avenue, San Jose, CA 95129  
(408) 253-6191 [atanabe@hotmail.com](mailto:atanabe@hotmail.com)

For handicapped information call or email Nancy Anderson:  
(408) 982-5731 [dander2567@aol.com](mailto:dander2567@aol.com)

A Committee on Homeless Women and Children Fundraiser  
All proceeds are donated to various agencies in Santa Clara Valley

## 2019 Local Scholarship Recipients



There were seven applicants for our scholarships for women transferring from West Valley College to a four-year college or university in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM). It is always difficult for the Local Scholarship Committee to select the winners because they all have outstanding academic records and laudable career goals. We are extremely pleased to introduce the four winners.

**THALIA BILLAWALA** hopes to attend UC Berkeley or Davis this fall to study cell biology. Her career goal is to become a **neonatologist**. She has long had an interest in medicine, and was able to attend courses at West Valley College while still in high school. She was able to shadow an OB/GYN in the doctor's office. Later, during her recent years at West Valley College, she was one of the WVC students who started a Pre-Health Sciences Club to help members network and prepare themselves in the pursuit of health-care related majors. She was also a member of the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society, a community service club.

**TAHANI FAISAL** plans to attend San Jose State University this fall to study Communicative Disorders and Sciences with the goal of becoming a **Speech Pathologist**. From her volunteer work at the Child Development Center at West Valley College, Tahani developed a passion for helping children. Her own learning difficulties caused her to take a class to learn how to better assist others, and then to work as a tutor at West Valley College.

**TZELZIN HERNANDEZ** hopes to attend UC Berkeley this fall to study cell and developmental biology. Her career goal is to get a **medical degree** and practice as an OB/GYN. She also plans to minor in music. Tzelzin has done a lot of volunteer work in her community and some of that included her work associated with the Mission College Symphony. She was one of the WVC students who formed the Pre-Health Sciences Club at West Valley College to help and encourage one another in their future studies, and was a STEM Peer Tutor assisting fellow students. Due to a difficult family life, which has caused her to take on many responsibilities, which would challenge any full-time student, the financial assistance from this scholarship will be very helpful.

**MIA MUNEMITSU** hopes to attend UCLA this fall to study mathematics or economics with a career goal in **computer science or data analysis**. Her love of mathematics began in high school and has grown while at WVC, where she gets new challenges. She was active in sports in high school and a member of an honor society. While at WVC she has worked as a peer tutor and also as an assistant coach for the high school badminton team; both have taught her better communication skills and patience.

Member donations and funds from the Authors' Luncheon this year have provided enough funding to award four scholarships of \$1,500 each. **Thank you for your generosity** in giving these students extra support as they continue their education in the fall and pursue their STEM career goals!

## June, 2019

- 3 **Monday** **No Board Meeting** in June.
- 4 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets 1:30-3:00 pm at Nancy Anderson's home, 1639 Daphne Drive, Saratoga. Join us to develop, maintain, or improve your conversational skills. Chair: Nancy Anderson, 408-348-3427. **New Members and Visitors are Welcome.**
- 11 **Tuesday** **Committee on Homeless Women and Children.** Meets **5:00 pm** for the **Annual Potluck** at Nancy Anderson's home, 1639 Daphne Drive, Saratoga. Contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-348-3427. **Visitors are Welcome.**
- 13 **Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks – DEMONSTRATION FOREST.** Located high in the Santa Cruz Mountains off Summit-Highlands Road, we will walk along dirt roads under lovely, cool trees to a picnic area. Meet promptly! 9:00 A.M. ~ Los Gatos. Questions? Jane Bishop (408) 356-7796 or Kay Duffy, (408) 867-0508. **New Hikers Welcome!**
- 19 **Wednesday** **Let's Do Lunch.** Meets 12:30 pm at **Sushi Heaven**, 12108 Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd, Saratoga. RSVP to Host, Audry Lynch, 408-725-1898. Chair, Joanna Yates, 408-395-2950. **Join us for friendly conversation.**
- 21 **Friday** **AM Book Review.** Meets at 9:30 am. Bring a book, good or bad, you would like to talk about. For meeting location, contact Chair, Margaret Bard, 408-377-6625 or margaretbard@gmail.com. **Come Find Your Next Great Read!**
- 25 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets 1:30-3:00 pm at Nancy Anderson's home, 1639 Daphne Drive, Saratoga. Join us to develop, maintain, or improve your conversational skills. Chair: Nancy Anderson, 408-348-3427, **Visitors are Welcome.**
- 25 **Tuesday** **Film Buffs.** The group will not meet in June, July and August. For more information call Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-497-1555.
- 27 **Thursday** **Back by Noon Hike –** Meet promptly! 9:00 am ~ Los Gatos. Questions? Jane Bishop, (408) 356-7796; Kay Duffy, (408) 867-0508. **Seeking New Hikers!**

## July, 2019

- 1 **Monday** **No Board Meeting** in July.
- 2 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** No meetings in July. Contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-348-3427, for more information.
- 9 **Tuesday** **Committee on Homeless Women & Children.** No meeting in July. Contact Chair: Nancy Anderson, 408-348-3427 for more information.
- 11 **Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks – LOCH LOMOND.** This lake and park in the mountains is the water supply for Santa Cruz. An easy hike with lovely views above the shore line. Meet promptly, 9 AM ~ Los Gatos.

- 17 **Wednesday** **Let's Do Lunch.** Meets 12:30 pm at **Bella Saratoga**, 14503 Big Basin Way, Saratoga. RSVP to Host, Babs Davis, 408-252-7608. Chair, Joanna Yates, 408-395-2950. **Join us for friendly conversation.**
- 19 **Friday** **AM Book Review.** Meets at 9:30 am. Bring a book, good or bad, you would like to talk about. For meeting location, contact Chair, Margaret Bard, 408-377-6625 or margaretbard@gmail.com. **Come find your next great read.**
- 22 **Monday** **Annual Potluck Lunch!** 11:30-1:30, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 13601 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga. See front page for more details.
- 23 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** No meeting in July. Contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-348-3427, for more information.
- 25 **Thursday** **Back by Noon Hike.** Meet promptly 9 AM ~ Los Gatos.
- 30 **Tuesday** **Film Buffs.** No meeting in July. For more information call Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-497-1555.

## August, 2019

- 1 **Thursday** **TRAIL CLEAN-UP.** Meet promptly 9 AM ~ Los Gatos.
- 5 **Monday** **No Board Meeting** in August.
- 6 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** No meeting in August. Contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-348-3427, for more information.
- 8 **Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks – PORTOLA STATE PARK.** A cool hike towards the coast under the redwoods in this beautiful redwood park. Time to hug a tree! Meet promptly, 9 AM ~ Saratoga.
- 13 **Tuesday** **Committee on Homeless Women & Children.** Meets at 3:30 pm at Nancy Anderson's home, 1639 Daphne Drive, San Jose. Chair: Nancy Anderson, 408-348-3427. **Visitors are welcome.**
- 16 **Friday** **AM Book Review.** Meets at 9:30 am. Bring a book, good or bad, you would like to talk about. For meeting location, contact Chair, Margaret Bard, 408-377-6625 or margaretbard@gmail.com. **Come find your next great read.**
- 21 **Wednesday** **Let's Do Lunch.** Meets at 12:30 pm at **Mandarin Gourmet**, 10145 N. De Anza Blvd, Cupertino. RSVP Host, Carol Greenleaf, 408-867-5680. Chair, Joanna Yates, 408-395-2950. **Join us for friendly conversation.**
- 22 **Thursday** **Back by Noon Hike.** Meets promptly 9 AM ~ Los Gatos.
- 27 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** No meeting in August. Contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-348-3427, for more information.
- 27 **Tuesday** **Film Buffs.** No meeting in August. For more information call Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-497-1555.



*June-July-  
August 2019*

Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch  
American Association of University Women  
14415 Evans Lane  
Saratoga, CA 95070

**Grapevine Committee:** Virginia Turner, interim editor; Julie Stevens, calendar; Ann Griffin, proofreader. Deadline for September-October issue is **August 16, 2019**. Email materials to [vturner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vturner@sbcglobal.net). Branch website: <https://losgatos-saratoga-ca-aauw.net>

## *Membership Renewals*

Membership renewal forms for 2019-2020 were mailed in May and should be returned no later than **June 30, 2019** to make sure you are included in our branch Directory. If you have any questions, please contact Virginia Turner, Membership VP, at (408) 866-4234 or by email at [vturner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vturner@sbcglobal.net).

## *Advertising in Our Directory*

Do you or a family member have a business that would like to reach AAUW members? We have space in our 2019-2020 Directory for a few more advertisers and would love to include them. Give their contact information to Virginia Turner at [vturner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vturner@sbcglobal.net) and she will send them all the details. Advertisements offset the cost to print and distribute the Directory.