

Looking Ahead – Save the Dates!



Tuesday, July 21, 2020 ~ 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

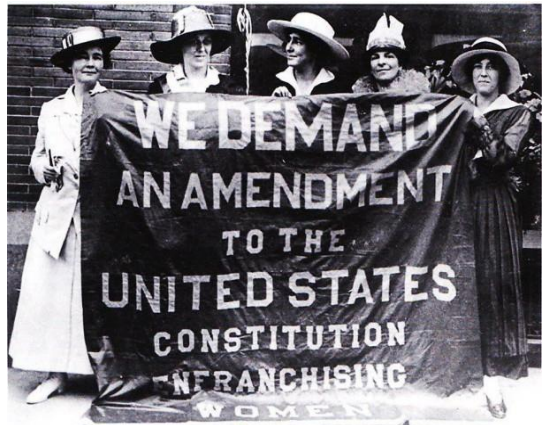
Annual Potluck Lunch – St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 13601 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga

Come and enjoy our annual potluck lunch. Bring a salad, appetizer or interesting cold dish to share; the branch will furnish beverages and dessert. No need to RSVP – we always have plenty of great food.

Saturday, August 22, 2020 ~ **NEW DATE!**
10:30 am to 12 Noon

“The History of Women’s Suffrage” Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga

After a hard-fought series of votes in the U.S. Congress and in state legislatures, the **Nineteenth Amendment** became part of the U.S. Constitution on August 18, 1920. To mark this year’s centennial of Women’s Suffrage, Bonnie J. Morris, PhD, will offer a lively history of the arguments FOR and AGAINST women’s suffrage, taking us back to 19th century attitudes toward women in politics and public life. Dr. Morris is currently a lecturer at UC Berkeley, and the author of sixteen books, including *Women’s History for Beginners* which was broadcast on C-Span. Her book *The Feminist Revolution* was selected by Oprah magazine as top reading for Women’s History Month. She has taught women’s history for over 25 years at various universities and has been a guest lecturer for the Library of Congress and the State Department.



Open to the Public

Co-sponsored by Saratoga Library and Los Gatos-Saratoga branch of AAUW

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

Our 2019-2020 Leadership Team:

Secretary	Mara Otlans	(253) 202-3307	marafelz@comcast.net
Treasurer	Lynn Sprague	(408) 867-9375	lynnsprague@gmail.com
Membership VP	Virginia Turner	(408) 866-4234	vturner@sbcglobal.net
Membership Treasurer	Louise Quenon	(408) 867-0698	lquenon@comcast.net
AAUW Funds	Judy Borlase	(408) 358-2262	judith@borlase.com



We are putting together the leadership team for 2020-2021. Many positions could be shared, and we will be happy to provide you with the materials you need to succeed. **Would you be willing to serve on the Board next year?** If so, just contact any one of the current Leadership Team members listed above. You can help keep our branch strong!

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

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

In Memoriam

Jan K. Leyse, 90, died on January 22, 2020, following a brief illness. Since moving to Sun Valley, Idaho with her husband 22 years ago, Jan spent most of her days volunteering for her favorite causes: Community Library Home Tour, Sun Valley Summer Symphony, Sun Valley Ski Club, and St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center. Prior to Sun Valley, Jan provided decades of service to several organizations, including AAUW; she was President of the Los Gatos-Saratoga branch in 1985-1986. She is survived by her sons Scott and Mark.

She graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she took first place in Women's Athletic Association archery and skied at every opportunity. On a personal level, Jan was a compassionate listener and knew just what to say to help you realize there are two sides to every story, look at your part in it, and come up with the best outcome for everyone involved. If Jan was your friend, it was a relationship for life. She was an ethical, honest, and loyal, loving friend.

Margie Mercant, 93, died April 10, 2020. She graduated from Cal Berkeley and earned a Master's in Psychology from San Jose State. She was active in the community, served as PTA president, and on the Grand Jury. She listened. She cared. She offered advice and said what she thought. She is survived by her daughter Marsha Mercant and son-in-law John Howard Swain.

Meet Our Local Scholarship Winners

The Local Scholarship Committee has awarded scholarships of \$1,500 each to three women students at West Valley College who are transferring to a four-year college in 2020-2021. We are extremely pleased to introduce this year's recipients.



PARMIDA KAVOOSI plans to attend Cal Poly or a UC campus to study civil engineering. She has a strong background in math and physics. Working with architects on real-world projects during her internship gave her invaluable experience working independently, solving problems, and using time management techniques to follow schedules and meet deadlines. An immigrant from Iran, she was determined to improve her English skills so she signed up to be trained as a tutor at WVC, allowing her to help others with their math skills while improving her own communication skills. She has proven herself to be a very hardworking student making excellent grades while overcoming many obstacles outside her control.

ANDREA LE plans to attend San Jose State University to study nursing with the goal of becoming a registered nurse and/or a nurse practitioner. Her interest in science and math comes from her mother, who had studied microbiology and passed along her knowledge of the scientific world as Andrea was growing up. Once Andrea took an anatomy class, she decided to study nursing. She has worked hard toward this goal, maintaining an excellent GPA, and has volunteered at a Kaiser hospital which increased her skills in patience, compassion, empathy and communication. Andrea believes strongly in equality for women, and though she faced cultural obstacles to pursue a career in a STEM field, she had several women teachers who helped her believe she could attain her goals.

SHOHEILA OREGANI plans to study for a nursing degree at San Jose State University. Her experiences growing up in Iran, where there are limited choices for women, were frustrating for her. She became a flight attendant and her work experience taught her to be independent from her family and responsible for herself. She immigrated to the U.S. to have more opportunities and has held several jobs and volunteer positions which have encouraged her love of science and nursing. As a member of the AGS Honor Society at WVC, she volunteered in different community services while simultaneously demonstrating collaboration, effort, motivation and discipline in her classes.

THANK YOU for your generosity in the giving of donations and through the Authors' Luncheon! You support the scholarship fund tremendously, giving these students extra support as they continue their university education in the fall and pursue their STEM career goals!

Local Scholarship Committee Members

The committee is composed mostly of educators or those who have worked in educational institutions.

- **Marilyn Fuller**, Chair, taught elementary and middle schools at three different CA districts for 34 years, the last 15 in Campbell Elem. School District.
- **Audry Lynch** taught preschool, elementary, and high school; served 32 years as a counselor at an intermediate school, and 25 years as a part-time English instructor at Mission College.
- **Mara Otlans** has a finance background; worked 15 years as CFO for home builder responsible for financial reporting, strategic planning, marketing, accounting, and personnel.
- **Karen Pock** taught fifth grade in the Foothill Elementary School, Saratoga Union School District for 36 years.
- **Dianne Priest** taught elementary school for 33 years and retired from Saratoga Elem. School District.
- **Julie Stevens** worked as an administrative assistant in the Dept. of Civil Environmental Engineering at Stanford.
- **Sumi Tanabe** worked at West Valley, District Office of the Chancellor; retired as a manager at Mission College, and taught part time Computer Applications for 20 years.

tech
trek

Tech Trek Camps Cancelled for 2020

The Tech Trek Camp which our Los Gatos-Saratoga girls would have attended at Stanford University has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our Tech Trek committee had already started interviewing the seventh-grade girls who were nominated by their teachers for possible selection, but we understand the importance of protecting the health and safety of the campers and staff who would participate.

Stanford University wrote, *“We are very sorry to have to take this additional step in response to COVID-19. It appears increasingly likely that some level of social distancing will be needed for some time, and a return to “normal” campus activities will not be able to occur overnight. We have concluded that it simply is not feasible to proceed with normal programming this summer.”*

Thanks from One of Our Authors

Saul Leichuk, one of the authors at our January 30 lunch, writes the following: “First and foremost, thank you so much for the invitation—I had such a fun time at the event, and so many interesting conversations with AAUW members that I found myself wishing for more time there! It was a wonderful afternoon, and please pass that on to your members. I get to chat and autograph, as opposed to simply telling people a more impersonal 'go buy on Amazon' etc. I love getting to meet avid readers at these events.”

May. 2020

- 1 **Friday** **Armchair Adventure Traveler.** Sheltering in place during May. Please contact Chair, JoAn Lambert, 408-867-6237 for information about possible future meetings
- 4 **Monday** **Board Meeting. 3:00 pm.** Please contact Virginia Turner, 408-866-4234, for information on whether meeting will be **virtual**, or held at the Saratoga Fire Station Community Room. **All members are welcome!**
- 5 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** Please contact Chair. Nancy Anderson, 408-368-3805, for information. **Visitors are Welcome.**
- 12 **Tuesday** **Committee on Homeless Women and Children.** Sheltering in place through May. Please contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-368-3805, for information.
- 14 **Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks – Russian Ridge Open Space.** Six miles easy walk along Skyline keeping 6 ft. apart. Meet promptly, **9 AM**, in the Ridge parking lot. Contact Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508, or Jane Bishop, 408-656-7796. **Seeking New Hikers!**
- 15 **Friday** **AM Book Review. 9:30 am via Zoom.** Discuss a book, good or bad, with others in the group. Contact Chair, Margaret Bard, 408-377-6625 or margaretbard@gmail.com. **Find Your Next Great Read!**
- 20 **Wednesday** **Let's Do Lunch.** Sheltering in place during May. Please contact Chair, Joanna Yates, 408-395-2950, for more information
- 26 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** Please contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-368-3805. **Visitors are Welcome.**
- 26 **Tuesday** **Film Buffs.** Sheltering in place during May. Contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-356-8441.
- 28 **Thursday** **Back by Noon Hike.** Meet promptly, **9 AM**, **Saratoga Argonaut Shopping Center**, way out in front of CVS. Contact Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508 or Jane Bishop 408-356-7796. **Seeking New Hikers!**



It's Time to Renew Your AAUW Membership!

Packets will be mailed early in May for renewing your AAUW membership for 2020-2021. You can also make optional contributions to our local projects – Tech Trek, Local Scholarships, and the Committee on Homeless Women and Children – at the same time. For more information, contact Virginia Turner, Membership VP, at vaturner@sbcglobal.net or phone 408-866-4234.



May, 2020

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 June/July/August issue is **May 16, 2020**. Email materials to vturner@sbcglobal.net. Branch website: <https://losgatos-saratoga-ca-aauw.net>

AAUW National Has Redesigned Its Web Site

Take a look at the updated design which shows what the national office of AAUW is doing to advance gender equity for women and girls. Much of the information is available to anyone, regardless of membership, so that you can use the site to give more information to anyone who might be interested in joining. Read more about the major issues addressed by AAUW's strategic plan: Education, workplace and economic equity, and leadership. Find resources like Work Smart and Start Smart, fellowships and grants, and the Legal Advocacy Fund. Check out recent news items and press releases.

The website address www.aauw-org remains the same. Take a few minutes and check it out!