



Grapevine Newsletter

May - June, 2021

Successful Tea and Talks with Authors

The afternoon Tea and Talks with Authors series was completed on March 18 with a lively talk by **Mark Greenside**. He spoke about his books which recount his experiences living part-time in France. His insightful and humorous stories led to a good discussion and many questions for him.

He wrote to us afterwards: "AAUW is a group I have long admired, and being asked to present to the group was an honor." Mark was especially pleased to be a part of our scholarship drive which benefits women transferring from West Valley College to a four-year university since he has taught at the community college level and is a big supporter of the system.

Our other two authors, **Lisa Prince Newman** and **Richard Haiduck**, also expressed appreciation for being asked to participate in the series. All three authors were impressed with the breadth of the questions and comments that they received, and they appreciated our support for their books.

Arleen Pickett, Tea and Talks Chairperson

AAUW Needs Your Vote on Important Issues



National AAUW is proposing to eliminate AAUW's longstanding requirement that a person hold an Associate or higher degree to qualify for membership. Other votes are required on amendments to the Public Policy Priorities and bylaws, as well as electing candidates for the Board of Directors. Details are on the national website at www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/. Voting ends **May 17**.

California AAUW requests your vote on bylaws, Public Policy Priorities for the state, and members for the state Board of Directors. More details can be found on the state website at www.aauw-ca.org/elections-nominations. Voting ends **May 7**. This is a separate vote from the National AAUW vote.

You should have received your individual voter PIN from both national and California AAUW, by email or by letter, with instructions on how to cast your vote.

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

Our 2020-2021 Elected Officers

Co-President	Sumi Tanabe (408) 253-6191	atanabe@hotmail.com
Co-President	Marlene Lamb (408) 497-1556	marlenela37@gmail.com
Treasurer	Lynn Sprague (408) 867-9375	lynnspr@gmail.com
Secretary	Mara Otlans (253) 202-3307	marafelz@comcast.net
AAUW Fund VP	Judy Borlase (408) 669-6828	judith@borlase.com
Membership VP	Virginia Turner (408) 866-4234	vturner@sbcglobal.net
Membership Treasurer	Louise Quenon (408) 867-0698	lquenon@comcast.net

These officers have all agreed to continue serving in 2021-2022. The Board is also looking to fill **open positions** for President-elect, Program VP, and Legal Advocacy. If you are interested in any of those opportunities, please contact either Sumi Tanabe or Marlene Lamb, Co-Presidents.

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

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

Membership Renewal for 2021-2022



Packets will be mailed early in May for renewing your AAUW membership for 2021-2022. 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 vturner@sbcglobal.net or phone 408-866-4234.

Message from Your Co-President

On Sunday, May 9, we celebrate Mother's Day. In 1870, abolitionist and suffragette Julia Howe wrote the first Mother's Day proclamation asking women everywhere to join in world peace. The American version of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and was nationally recognized in a 1914 proclamation signed by Woodrow Wilson. Jarvis would denounce the holiday's commercialization and spent the latter part of her life trying to remove it from the calendar.



Countries that celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May include Australia, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey and Belgium. In Mexico and many parts of Latin America, Mother's Day is celebrated on May 10 each year.

My mother was born in 1913 and died in 2009. Major portions of her life were spent in uncertainties, wars, and great upheavals. She was born in an area we know as Alviso, but was shipped off to a relative in Japan when she was an infant. It was common for the Japanese farmers to let relatives care for their children since they were too poor to farm and care for their children at the same time. My mother was so happy to come back to her family in San Jose. But her happiness was short-lived. She was pulled out of the fifth grade to work on the farm. She was never able to finish grammar school.

She married and moved to Long Beach where my father had a small farm. Just when things were progressing, Pearl Harbor happened. Our family was given two weeks to sell everything including a new tractor. President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 and forcefully moved 120,000 of us Japanese and Japanese Americans to 10 internment camps. Our family went first to Jerome, Arkansas, and after a year we were transferred to an Indian reservation in Gila River, Arizona. The government was bringing German POWs to Jerome. We moved from the swamps of Arkansas to the desert of Arizona. I was 4.5 years old and released from the camp at age 7.5. It must have been a terrible time for my mother, never knowing what would happen to us. We had no home to return to after the camps. In spite of life's challenges and hardships, my mother raised five children and lived to be 96.

What about you and your mother? If your mother passed away, what memories do you have? If she is still living, you are fortunate. I am so grateful for my mother. Every day should be Mother's Day. Mothers sacrificed so much for their children, as I am sure you have for yours.

Happy Mother's Day to all of you!

Hope you received your vaccine. Take care and stay safe.

Sumi Tanabe, Co-President

Meet Our Local Scholarship Recipients

The Local Scholarship Committee has awarded scholarships of \$3,000 each to three women students at West Valley College who are transferring to a four-year college in 2021-2022. These scholarships are all dedicated to the memory of the gender equality champion, the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. We are very pleased to introduce this year's recipients. Sadly, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were again unable to present these awards in person but offer them our warmest congratulations.



Francesca Hope has long enjoyed her studies in STEM courses. She has applied to the University of California, Santa Barbara to continue her coursework in Chemical Engineering with the goal of a Master's Degree in Materials Engineering. Francesca felt a lack of community among fellow women students in her courses, so she took the initiative to start and lead the first Women in STEM Club at West Valley College. Although events had to be virtual, she was able to organize several guest speakers in STEM fields and felt that the connections they made were empowering to them at a time they were really needed. She has proven herself to be an intellectually curious and highly motivated student.

Alexandra Lum has been accepted to Arizona State University to study Health Science with the goal of becoming a Physician's Assistant. Due to her own health history, she has worked toward a career in the medical field with the goal of helping others. She has a lot of experience as a volunteer helping others, from children to the elderly, in a variety of organizations. She also became a member and coordinator in the AGS Honor Society at West Valley College, where she improved her public speaking and organizational skills. Strong women examples have been important in her life and she is proud to be a recipient of an AAUW scholarship.

Paula Silva De Oliveira plans to attend Santa Clara University to continue her studies in Mathematics and Computer Science. She is particularly interested in the field of Aviation Engineering. She has completed many challenging courses in these fields and proven herself an exceptional student with strong leadership skills. She has experience as a volunteer assisting others as well as participating in environmental clean-up events. She is a first-generation immigrant who is pleased to be eligible to take her U.S. Citizen Naturalization test soon. In her life, Paula has had to overcome many difficulties to be able to continue her education thus far.

A big **THANK YOU** to you, our members, for your generosity in making donations and through the Tea and Talks with Authors events this year. Your support of the scholarship fund helps tremendously, giving these students the extra support they need as they continue their university education in the fall and pursue their STEM career goals! You are truly making a difference in their lives.

THANK YOU also to the **Local Scholarship Committee** which is composed of educators or those who have worked in educational institutions. The members are: Marilyn Fuller, Chair; Audry Lynch, Mara Otlans, Karen Pock, Dianne Priest, Julie Stevens, and Sumi Tanabe.

Marilyn Fuller, Local Scholarship Committee Chair

Report from the Wildflower Run

Traditionally, TEAM AAUW LOS GATOS/SARATOGA WALKERS has supported the Morgan Hill AAUW Branch by participating in their annual “Wildflower Run”, an event including runners, walkers, families, open to all, with a choice of 10K or 5K routes. Participants receive a T-shirt, all kinds of free goodies from dozens of gathered vendors, a “finisher” ribbon, and an official “clocked” time (for serious competitors). Best of all is the pride of contributing to a worthy cause, educational scholarships for women, while enjoying a morning walk with friends in the beautiful Morgan Hill country side. It’s a festive, uplifting event, which many of us have attended for years.

In spite of a new Pandemic type virtual event this year, Annual Supreme Organizer, Jane Bishop, led 16 of us (with photographer) on a 7 mile (10K) walk along West Cliff Avenue in Santa Cruz, March 24, 2021 -- a spectacular perfect day, with cold air, strong breeze and bright hot sunshine. Hopefully, we will meet again in Morgan Hill in 2022 for “The Wildflower Run.” Come join us! Please contact either Jane or myself if you, friends, and/or acquaintances are interested.

Carol Fitting, Team Member



Gifts for Teens Gearing Up

For many years San Jose branch has sponsored Gifts for Teens which provides low-income teens with some holiday cheer. Through your generosity, Gifts for Teens will again be able to provide holiday gifts for local homeless teenagers and kids in foster-care group homes. Duffel bags for boys and sturdy totes for girls are filled with popular items, both practical and fun -- warm clothes, personal care items, school supplies, store gift cards, jewelry and cosmetics for girls, games and sturdy Bombas socks for boys. The teens really appreciate these holiday gifts, often the only ones they receive. Cash donations now allow us to take advantage of the many spring sales promotions. Please contact Jan Giroux, jgiroux603@aol.com, for ways you can help.

May, 2021



- 3 Monday Board Meeting.** Meets at **10:00 am via Zoom.** Contact Lynn Sprague, 408-867-9375 or lynnspr@gmail.com for Zoom information. **All members are welcome!**
- 4 Tuesday Conversations in Spanish.** Meets at **3:15 pm via Zoom.** Please contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-368-3805 or Marilyn Fuller, 408-679-1167 if interested in joining, and for Zoom details.
- 7 Friday Armchair Adventure Travels. The Northwest Passage,** presented by Bunny Laden. Meets at **7:30 pm via Zoom.** For centuries explorers searched for a shipping route from Europe through the Arctic waters to Asia. It was not until the early 1900's that Roald Amundson, in his ship Gjoa, made the complete passage. But the trip turned out to be so much more—beautifully desolate landscapes, grand glaciers, unspoiled fjords, polar bears, birds, whales, amazing geology and a chance to learn about Nunavut and Inuit cultures. Join me for a glimpse of my 17-day journey from Kudluktuk, Canada to Kanger-Iussuaq, Greenland. Contact JoAn Lambert, 408-867-6237 for Zoom details.
- 11 Tuesday Committee on Homeless Women and Children.** Sheltering in place until further notice. Please contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-368-3805, for information.
- 13 Thursday Scenic Hikes and Walks – RUSSIAN RIDGE OPEN SPACE.** Five mile easy walk along the Skyline, with lovely views—ocean to the left, Bay to the right, and spectacular wildflowers. **Meet promptly 9AM, Saratoga,** Argonaut Shopping Center, way out in front of CVS. Questions? Call Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
***We are continuing to observe Covid-19 rules, with carpooling only for those hikers who have received vaccine shots.*
- 18 Tuesday Conversations in Spanish.** Meets at **3:15 pm via Zoom.** Please contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-368-3805 or Marilyn Fuller, 408-679-1167 if interested in joining, and for Zoom details.
- 19 Wednesday Let's Do Lunch.** Meets at **12:30 pm at Aldo's Ristorante,** 14109 Winchester Blvd, Los Gatos. RSVP Joanna Yates, Chair, 408-395-2950. **Let's have a reunion!**
- 21 Friday AM Book Review.** Meets at **10:00 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. **Come and Find Your Next Great Read.**
- 25 Tuesday Film Buffs. Come join us on Zoom.** Movie theaters aren't open, so we review films from Netflix, Amazon or other streaming services, and members also recommend new TV Series. For more information, contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-356-8441.
- 27 Thursday Scenic Hikes and Walks – BACK BY NOON HIKE - Meet Promptly, 9 AM, Saratoga.** Argonaut Shopping Center, way out in front of the CVS Pharmacy. Questions? Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.

June, 2021



- 1 Tuesday Conversations in Spanish.** Meets at **3:15 pm via Zoom.** Please contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-368-3805 or Marilyn Fuller, 408-679-1167 if interested in joining, and for Zoom details.
- 7 Monday Board Meeting.** Meets at **10:00 am via Zoom.** Contact Lynn Sprague, 408-867-9375 or lynnspr@gmail.com for Zoom information. **All members are welcome!**
- 8 Tuesday Committee on Homeless Women and Children.** Sheltering in place until further notice. Please contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-368-3805, for more information.
- 10 Thursday Scenic Hikes and Walks –ELKHORN SLOUGH –** An easy walk in this interesting wildlife sanctuary near Moss Landing. Lots of seabirds and seals. On the way we will visit a fascinating succulent garden. **Meet promptly 9AM Los Gatos.** Free limited parking Northside lot, way behind Starbucks and Petco. Questions? Call Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
***We are continuing to observe Covid-19 rules, with carpooling only for those hikers who have received vaccine shots.*
- 15 Tuesday Conversations in Spanish.** Meets at **3:15 pm via Zoom.** Please contact Chair, Nancy Anderson 408-368-3805 or Marilyn Fuller 408-679-1167 if interested in joining, and for Zoom details.
- 16 Wednesday Let's Do Lunch.** Meets at **12:30 pm at Effie's Restaurant,** 331 W. Hacienda Ave, Campbell. RSVP Joanna Yates, Chair, 408-395-2950. **Good food and conversation.**
- 17 Thursday Scenic Hikes and Walks – TRAIL CLEANUP.** Back by Noon hike + coffee and/or Lunch. **Meet promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos.** Free limited parking, Northside lot, way behind Starbucks and Petco.
- 18 Friday AM Book Review.** Meets at **10:00 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. **Come and Find Your Next Great Read.**
- 24 Thursday Scenic Hikes and Walks – BACK BY NOON HIKE. Meet promptly, 9 AM, Saratoga.** Argonaut Shopping Center, Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd, way out in front of CVS.
- 29 Tuesday Film Buffs. Come join us on Zoom.** Movie theaters aren't open, so we review films from Netflix, Amazon or other streaming services, and members also recommend new TV Series. For more information, contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-356-8441.



A Reminder from the Treasurer

Did you incur any expenses for AAUW this year that have not yet been reimbursed? Please send your receipts and request for reimbursement to Lynn Sprague, Treasurer, before June 30 so that she can wrap up the books for 2020-2021.



May –
June, 2021

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

AAUW Public Policy Update

California AAUW held its first ever virtual Lobby Day which was a huge success! 111 AAUW members from 68 branches visited 36 Assembly and 23 Senate offices, and the Public Policy co-chairs visited with the Governor's staff. Many offices were familiar with AAUW, and we had a great opportunity to educate those who weren't, as well as to advocate for our top-priority bills. Please thank your branch members for their participation.

The Public Policy Committee has completed its review of the bills for this legislative season, and the 2020-21 [Bill Tracker](#) can now be found on the website under Public Policy/Legislative Advocacy/Bill Tracking.

*Kathleen Harper, Director, and
Sue Miller, Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs*

Grapevine Committee: Virginia Turner, editor; Julie Stevens, calendar; Ann Griffin, proofreader. Deadline for July-August issue is **June 16, 2021**. Email materials to vturner@sbcglobal.net. Branch website: <https://losgatos-saratoga-ca-aauw.net>