



Grapevine Newsletter September - October, 2021

DAZZLE and DAHLIAS: CANCELLED



We regret that our September 11 event has been canceled due to concerns over Covid-19. We hope to reschedule in the spring -- watch the *Grapevine* for details.

For additional information call or email Nancy Anderson:
(408) 982-5731 dander2567@aol.com
Committee on Homeless Women and Children

Join an Interest Group or Committee – Bring a Friend

Many of our interest groups and committees are staying active and finding new ways to connect with one another. In past years we would have highlighted these groups at our opening meeting in September, but this year we are using the *Grapevine* to give you more information. See pages 4 and 5 for **details about the groups** and how to contact them. This would be a great way to introduce **prospective members to AAUW!** Anyone who is interested in joining the Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch of AAUW is welcome to attend a general Branch meeting and a meeting of any interest group or committee. Please contact the section leader to make sure that guests are welcome.

Leadership Change at National AAUW

Kim Churches will be stepping down as AAUW Chief Executive Officer effective October 1 to become President/CEO of The Washington Center where she'll combine her focus on gender equity with her background in higher-education leadership. The AAUW Board of Directors will be meeting to determine next steps to replace the CEO. As Board Chair Julia Brown said in her announcement, "AAUW is emerging from the pandemic with a solid commitment to our mission and our members, stronger financial management, good governance, diversifying revenue streams and capable and dedicated staff." We join the other members of AAUW in thanking Kim for her leadership at AAUW and wish her well in her new position.

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

Our 2021-2022 Elected Officers

Co-President	Sumi Tanabe (408) 253-6191	atanabe@hotmail.com
Co-President	Marlene Lamb (408) 497-1555	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

AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

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

Directory Distribution and Corrections

Those who receive the *Grapevine* by mail will also receive the 2021-2022 directory by mail; those who receive the *Grapevine* by email will receive it by email. It can be printed on regular 8.5 x 11-inch paper, or just keep it in your computer or other device for reference. It will also be available in the Members Only section of our website. Many thanks to editor Virginia Turner and proofreader Susan Lange.



If you need to make corrections or changes to your information, please contact Louise Quenon, our database manager, at 408-867-0698 or lquenon@comcast.net.

Meet Marlene Lamb, Co-President

Marlene Louise Nordahl (nice Norwegian name) was born and raised in Everett, Washington. Her one brother, Gerald, was two years younger. Marlene graduated from the University of Washington with a BS in History and Science, through the College of Education. With her teaching credential she headed to California with 2 friends to teach 7th grade in Jefferson Union School District, Santa Clara. She taught 2 sections of English/History Core in the morning session for 2 1/2 months. The classes were large - 38 and 42 students. This first year, Marlene enjoyed teaching the next to the bottom group, rather than the next to the top group. After getting married and having 3 children, she was hired in Los Gatos Union School District to teach at Ming Quong, a Residential Treatment Center in Los Gatos. When Ming Quong closed the residential school, Marlene was assigned to a Special Day Class/Learning Disabled class at Van Meter School. Altogether she taught for 30 years. Much to her surprise she was named **Teacher of the Year** in 1996 in the Los Gatos Union School District,



Marlene joined the Los Gatos Branch of AAUW with her friend Bette Pestka in 1987. At that time, you needed to present your college diploma to the membership chair. Marlene joined the **Homeless Women and Children's** interest group. Little did she know that she would eventually become its perpetual secretary, recording the minutes and starting a career of writing Thank You Notes for the Committee. Marlene also joined the AAUW **Evening Book** group and the **Film Buffs**. She was our Named Gift Honoree in 2014. In retirement she became a Happy Dragon volunteer, and joined the Friends of the Saratoga Library (thanks to Cathy Foscatto), pricing biographies in the sorting room for the Book-go-Round. About the same time, she earned a new title of Grandma and helped with babysitting. Marlene is also in a Mystery Book group. One of the members once said, "We've all learned many ways to kill people."

AAUW led Marlene to be a Dorm Mom at Stanford, **Camp Hooper Tech Trek**. The first year, her college-age son said, "Mom, let's think about this: (1) you are spending a week with twelve 7th grade girls, (2) sleeping in a Fraternity basement and (3) eating in a college cafeteria. There is something wrong with this!" Marlene was a dorm mom for 11 year and loved the experience.

With her second husband in their 24' motorhome, they traveled the West, attending 22 Elderhostels. They also participated in 2 European Elderhostels. Marlene also visited both her Norwegian and Swedish relatives one summer.

Covid came, settled in, and ZOOM joined our world. Marlene had 5 different groups. Luckily her 3 grown children and 5 out of 6 grandchildren live locally.

Marlene is serving with great pleasure as co-president of Los Gatos/Saratoga AAUW with her good friend, **Sumi Tanabe** (Marlene claims Sumi is the brains of the twosome). And both Marlene and Sumi say -- GO GIANTS!

Interest Groups and Committees

Authors' Lunch Committee

We will plan a lunch and invite three authors to come and speak to us, likely in February or March, 2022. Authors may bring copies of their books to sell after the lunch. They always have wonderful stories about why they wrote their books, how they got them published, back stories of the characters or situations in the books. Profits this year went to our Local Scholarship fund.
Arleen Pickett, 408-356-3233 or email arleenpickett@gmail.com.



Bridge



Our 3 bridge groups are currently paused due to Covid 19 but hope to resume in-person play when conditions permit. We are always seeking players to join our groups. Two of the groups meet one afternoon per month for “party” bridge with Chicago scoring; the third group plays duplicate bridge one evening each month but might consider moving to an afternoon if needed.

Louise Quenon. 408-867-0698 or email lquenon@comcast.net.

Book Review

We discuss any books we’ve been reading. Each member tells us about the book, whether they loved it or hated it. We learn about a variety of books we may want to read in the future, whether on kindle, from the library, in print or electronic, even audio! We meet on the third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. We have been meeting via Zoom, but when conditions permit, we will meet in each other’s homes.

Margaret Bard, 408-377-6625 or email margaretbard@gmail.com.



Committee on Homeless Women and Children



We connect with several local agencies that provide services for homeless women and children. The Committee raises funds which are then given to various organizations that provide programs for homeless women and children. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, either by Zoom or in person, Covid-19 allowing. New members are very welcome.
Nancy Anderson, 408 982-5731 or email dander2567@aol.com.

Conversations in Spanish

We meet currently (and for the near future) via Zoom for about an hour and a half, on the first and third Tuesday afternoons each month, to chat in Spanish about all sorts of topics. You are welcome to join us if you’d like to practice your Spanish language skills.

Marilyn Fuller, 408-679-1167 or email mdfuller1@aol.com.



Film Buffs

We meet the LAST Tuesday of the month at 2:30 pm, and in June and July we actually went out to lunch. We discuss movies we have seen on Netflix and other services, and alert other members to what we enjoyed (or didn't). Plans are in flux: Do we do Zoom meetings or go out to lunch?

Marlene Lamb, 408-497-1555 or email marlenela37@gmail.com



Great Decisions



This discussion program gives us opportunities to learn about current world affairs and to give feedback to the Foreign Policy Association. Topics have ranged from Trade with China, Cyber Conflict, Nuclear Negotiations, and Global Migration. Sessions are held during February-May. We are waiting to see if we will be able to have the sessions at a local site.

Sumi Tanabe at (408) 253-6191 or email atanabe@hotmail.com.

Let's Do Lunch

An interesting and fun group, we have lunch at various restaurants in the Los Gatos-Saratoga area on the third Wednesday of the month at 12:30 pm. We have stimulating conversations about our diverse interests, at restaurants with many choices of delicious food. Come join us – new members are welcome!

Joanna Yates, 408 395-2950 or email hellojyates@earthlink.net



Local Scholarship Committee



We award \$3,000 scholarships to West Valley College women who are transferring to a college or university to continue their education in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) or related fields. We usually meet once a year in March to review the applications and select the recipients. Members have also helped raise funds for the scholarships.

Marilyn Fuller, 408-679-1167 or email mdfuller1@aol.com.

Scenic Hikes and Walks

We have 2 hikes or walks each month, the second Thursday and the fourth Thursday, starting at 9 am promptly. Every other month we clean up a section of the Los Gatos Creek trail that our branch has "adopted." In the spring we participate in the annual Wildflower Run in Morgan Hill.

Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796 or email Jtrailcats@aol.com

Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508 or email k@kayduffywatercolors.com



Supper Club

In the planning stages; watch the Grapevine for details.

Travel "Armchair Adventures"



Multi-media travel adventure programs, presented by AAUW members and friends, are offered on the first Friday of the month in October, November, and January through May, at 7:30 pm. All members and guests are welcome!

JoAn Lambert, 408-867-6237 or email jgdblamm@earthlink.net

September, 2021



- 7 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets at **3:15 pm via Zoom.** Please contact Marilyn Fuller, 408-679-1167 if interested in joining, and for Zoom details.
- 9 **Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks – BEACH HIKE and ANNUAL CLEANUP –** Watsonville. Bring gloves and bags. Reward ourselves with lunch or pie at Gizdich Ranch, and buy berries, apples or cider. **Meet Promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos.** Free limited parking North Side lot, off Santa Cruz Ave, way behind Starbucks and Petco. Questions? Contact Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508, or Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796.
- 13 **Monday** **Board Meeting.** Meets at **10:00 am via Zoom.** Please contact Lynn Sprague, 408-867-9375 or lynnspr@gmail.com for Zoom information. **All members are welcome!**
- 14 **Tuesday** **Committee on Homeless Women and Children.** Meets at **2:30 pm via ZOOM,** depending on Virus situation. Contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-982-5731.
- 15 **Wednesday** **Let's Do Lunch.** Meets at **12:30 pm** at Florentine Trattoria, 14510 Big Basin Way, Saratoga. RSVP Chair, Joanna Yates, 408-395-2950. Join us for good friendship!
- 17 **Friday** **AM Book Review.** Meets at **10:00 am.** Come to 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.**
- 21 **Tuesday** **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets at **3:15 pm via Zoom.** Please contact Marilyn Fuller, 408-679-1167 if interested in joining, and for Zoom details.
- 23 **Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks – BACK BY NOON HIKE.** **Meet Promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos.** Free limited parking North Side lot, off Santa Cruz Ave, way behind Starbucks and Petco. Questions? Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 28 **Tuesday** **Film Buffs.** Meets at **11:30 am via Zoom,** depending on virus situation. For more information, contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-497-1555.

October, 2021



- 1 **Friday** **Armchair Adventure Travels. Egypt,** presented by Gary Marcos. Meets at **7:30 pm via ZOOM.** Gary traveled through Egypt in March, 2020, including Cairo, Aswan, Abu Simbel, and sailing down the Nile in a Dahabiya (10-person sailing vessel). Share the awe, spanning more than 3,000 years of civilization, of ancient and current Egypt. *Zoom information will be e-mailed, the weekend before the program, to names on the list from last season. To be added to the list, please notify JoAn Lambert at 408-867-6237.*

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- 14 **Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks –ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO HIKE.** Walk along the the Bay during Fleet Week and watch the ships and jets. Lunch at Ferry Building. **Meet Promptly, 9 AM, Saratoga,** Argonaut Shopping Center, way out in front of CVS Pharmacy. Questions? Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 15 **Friday** **AM Book Review.** Meets at **10:00 am.** Come to 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.**
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- 20 **Wednesday** **Let's Do Lunch.** Meets at **12:30 pm** at Aldo's Café, 440 North Santa Cruz Ave, Los Gatos. RSVP Chair, Joanna Yates, 408-395-2950. Join us for great food and conversation!
- 21 **Thursday** **Scenic Hikes and Walks – TRAIL CLEANUP.** Back by Noon hike + coffee and or lunch? **Meet promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos.** Free limited parking, North Side lot, off Santa Cruz Ave, way behind Starbucks and Petco. Questions? Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508
- 26 **Tuesday** **Film Buffs.** Meets at **11:30 am via Zoom,** depending on the virus situation. For more information contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-497-1555.
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AAUW Gatherings: Put Safety First

Many members are understandably eager to return to in-person gatherings, but it's important to follow all city, state and county guidance and be mindful of the risks. The pandemic isn't over, and many of us regularly engage with young people and others who may not yet have access to the vaccine. Virtual gatherings can bring flexibility and allow us to expand our reach to new groups. We certainly hope to see you again – in person – very soon!



September –
October, 2021

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

Update on AAUW Public Policy

Of our initial list of 39 bills on which AAUW California took positions or is watching, one has been signed by the Governor (re-hiring employees displaced by the pandemic) and 18 are still active. Learn more by visiting the California AAUW website at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2021/04/bill-tracking.pdf/> for the status of all these bills.

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



Santa Clara County Office of Education sponsors Strong Start to strengthen early childhood education, one of AAUW CA priorities: "Adequate and equitable funding for high quality public education for all students, including preschoolers." The seven Santa Clara County AAUW branches have been apprised of the actions being taken by Strong Start for three years. Their website www.strongstartsantaclara.org/ has more information about the efforts to fund Transitional K programs for 4-year-old children.

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