

## ***Coming Events – Watch for Details!***

After all the Zoom meetings, everyone was excited when the Board met in person for the first time in 18 months to discuss a number of options for events to be held later in the year. Check the *Grapevine* and our website as details are finalized on the following:

***Authors' Lunch:*** We hope to return to the format of lunch and presentations by 2 or 3 local authors, probably in February or March. This has been a very popular event in the past.

***Title IX: What you Don't Know Can Hurt You:*** Sponsored by the Interbranch Council for all branches in Santa Clara County, scheduled for March 19, 2022. IBC is putting together the speakers and format which will be open to all.

***Dazzle and Daffodils:*** Jewelry party fundraiser for the Committee on Homeless Women and Children, probably in April, postponed from September.

Other business matters included an update on Tech Trek which has a new state coordinator who is working to bring back the college camps; a report about Sunshine messages sent in the last month; and the possibility of awarding our scholarship recipients membership in AAUW as student affiliates. Special thanks to Louise Quenon for hosting this productive meeting.



***Left to right:*** Marilyn Fuller, Cynthia Miller, Marlene Lamb, Virginia Turner, Sumi Tanabe, JoAn Lambert, Lynn Sprague, Mara Otlans, and Margaret Bard. ***Photo by*** Louise Quenon

## ***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.*

## ***Passing the Gavel***



Past President Virginia Turner (center) passes the gavel to co-presidents Marlene Lamb and Sumi Tanabe at our Board meeting October 4.

The Board meets on the first Monday of the month (except September and January due to holidays when the meeting is shifted to the second Monday). Board meetings are open to AAUW members. If you are interested in any Board position, please contact Sumi or Marlene. We are always looking for enthusiastic branch leaders.

## *Message from your Co-President*



I want to tell you about two women who caught my attention. **Betty Reid Soskin** recently celebrated her milestone 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She is the oldest active ranger in a National Park, serving as an interactive ranger at the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond. In 2019 she released a memoir “Sign My Name to Freedom.” Perhaps some of you have seen her talk.

Over the course of her life, Betty has been a staff member for the California legislature, mother, artist, singer and activist. Her great grandmother had been born into slavery in 1846 in Saint James Parish, Louisiana. Betty spent her childhood and coming of age in Richmond, California. She worked as a union representative for the African American shipyard workers during WWII. In 1943-44, a White worker in the shipyards made \$47.25/week, but the Black worker only made \$25-35/week for the same work. It wasn’t until 1944-45 that Black women were trained as welders. The Kaiser shipyards produced 747 ships in 3 years and 8 months.

After the National Historical Park opened in 2012, Betty began her role as a park ranger. Betty initially followed a conventional path of young wife and mother but she awakened to her more liberated self in mid-life and never looked back. She said “I think I’m going to be carried away kicking and screaming when I die because I’m not going to ever be ready to go.”



This year marks the 31st anniversary of the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This is the story of one such disabled person. Her name is **Judith Scott** (1943-2005) and she was born to a middle-class family in Ohio. Born deaf and dumb with Down Syndrome, Judith was institutionalized at age 5. Her twin sister, Joyce, finally found her when Judith was 44 years old and took her to Oakland. Joyce enrolled Judith at the Oakland Creative Growth Art Center. Joyce wanted to create a nurturing environment where her sister’s talents could grow.

Judith would walk around and pick up discarded items such as an old string, a piece of wire, or sticks. She would then take these items and made sculptures. She discovered her passion for abstract fiber art. Her art expressed that we are balls of twine and that no one is better or more valuable than anyone else. In the 18 years that Judith made her art work, she never repeated a form or color scheme.

Joyce wrote about Judith in “Entwined: Sisters and Secrets in the Silent World of Artist Judith Scott.” Judith died on March 15, 2005, in Dutch Flat, CA. She was locked away in an institution for 35 years. Her story is a profound lesson in moral courage, the power of one compassionate person, and how each of us can shift society in a positive and caring direction.

Marlene and I wish all of you very happy, healthy and peaceful holidays. Stay safe.

*Sumi Tanabe, Co-President*



## ***AAUW National Names New Leader***

**Gloria L. Blackwell** was named the new Chief Executive Officer of AAUW, effective October 18, 2021. Gloria has extensive experience leading within the organization. She has managed and expanded AAUW's fellowships and grants program – awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs. She spearheaded innovative programs including the award-winning salary negotiation workshops. Gloria initiated and built partnerships with major funders, local governments and institutes of higher education. And she has significantly expanded the organization's outreach to girls and women of color. You can read much more about Gloria on the national AAUW website.

## ***San Jose AAUW Fundraiser***

San Jose will hold their exciting 5-day ONLINE fundraising campaign December 6-10, 2021, to support our **Local Scholarship program**. Help Bay Area women complete a 4-year college degree AND join the drawing for fabulous prizes (2-night stay on the Santa Cruz Harbor, fine wines, Sharks tickets with dinner included, a ruby-and diamond-chip necklace and earrings and more). Go to our website after November 29 ([www.AAUWSanJose.org](http://www.AAUWSanJose.org)) to learn about our Local Scholarship program, to see all the great prizes, and to donate with just one click!

***Questions? email Diane at [Scholarships@aauwsanjose.org](mailto:Scholarships@aauwsanjose.org)***

## ***Women's Pro Choice Walk, October 2***

Carol Fitting participated in the Women's Pro Choice Walk downtown San Jose. There was a wide range of participants, lots of diversity, including Christians, men, LGBTQ, Socialists, fans of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a few MAGA hats, indigenous speakers, anti-vax folks, Swing Left, along with many AAUW members.



## *Committee on Homeless Helps LifeMoves*

In 1985 Georgia Travis, a member of Los Gatos-Saratoga AAUW, founded the Committee on Homeless Women and Children. Her plan was to open a daytime drop-in center for women and children in San Jose. Realizing a broader agency would need to be involved, she approached the Urban Ministry for their help. That agency was in a state of flux and with many years and many name changes it is today called "LifeMoves".

The committee, with much help, did open the daytime center, named the Georgia Travis Center by the board members. (BTW - Georgia was 78 years old when she began all this!) Since the beginning, our committee has remained involved with the agency. We have served on the board, worked to establish the Georgia Travis Center, volunteered at the center performing many and various tasks. We have covered emergency expenses when the need arose. The agency is always a line item on our committee budget.

We are really pleased to tell you about the newest LifeMoves project in Mountain View.

Using remodeled shipping containers for what will eventually be 100 homes, the site now is housing 125 residents. There are brightly painted rooms, bunk beds for children, bathrooms and kitchens. Outside the units is a row of private showers along with laundry facilities. There is a playground for children. Case management provides resources for the families. What a project, providing dignity, safety and progressive care.



I encourage you to go to the LiveMoves website [www.lifemoves.org/homekey/](http://www.lifemoves.org/homekey/) and watch the video about the grand opening of this project. For more information call Nancy Anderson (408) 982-5731 or email [Dander2567@aol.com](mailto:Dander2567@aol.com). The Committee is open to new members.

## *Gifts for Teens*



Gifts for Teens has completed another successful assembly session for the holiday giving season. Toiletries and school supplies were gathered together in cellophane bags; sweatshirts, tee-shirts and socks were rolled; knit scarves, caps and gloves were bundled; fast food and store gift cards were sorted and sealed in can't-be-missed red envelopes. On the assembly days, the early morning set-up crew came in and set up canopies and tables for the assembly line in the San Jose AAUW headquarters parking lot. When the volunteers arrived, the fun began. Volunteers were mostly National Charity League (NCL) members and students from Pioneer, Bellarmine and Mitty High Schools -- teens helping other teens, less fortunate than themselves, kids they don't even know. Over 500 bags and totes were filled this year. Many thanks to all who supported this program!

*Cheryl Markman, Gifts for Teens*

## November, 2021



- 1 Monday Board Meeting.** Meets at **10:00 am via Zoom.** Please contact Lynn Sprague, 408-867-9375 or lynnnspr@gmail.com for Zoom information. **All members are welcome!**
- 2 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.
- 5 Friday Armchair Adventure Travels. Canadian Rockies,** presented by wildlife photographer Joan Sparks. **Meets at 7:30 pm via ZOOM.** Join Joan Sparks on her adventure through Banff and Yoho National Parks in Canada. Through the camera lens you will see cities, the Canadian Rockies, hot springs, vistas and waterfalls. Brief stops will be made at several lakes including Minnewanka, Vermilion, Emerald and Louise. Breath-taking canyons and icefields will round out the program. Contact JoAn Lambert, 408-867-6237 for Zoom details.
- 9 Tuesday Committee on Homeless Women and Children.** No meeting in November. Contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-982-5731 for information about the group.
- 11 Thursday Scenic Hikes and Walks – BIG BASIN – COAST-SIDE ENTRANCE.** Walk the Redwoods from the unburnt side of the park. Snack or lunch at Kelley's Bakery. **Meet Promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos.** Free limited parking Northside lot, off Santa Cruz Ave, way behind Starbucks and Petco. Leaders: Kay Duffy 408-867-0508 and Jane Bishop 408-356-7796.
- 16 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.
- 19 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.**
- 26 Friday Scenic Hikes and Walks – FRIDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING - BACK BY NOON HIKE.** Walk off some of that huge turkey dinner. **Family welcome! Meet promptly, 9 AM Saratoga –** Argonaut Shopping Center on Saratoga Sunnyvale Rd. Look for us way out in front of CVS Pharmacy, away from shops and bank. Leaders: Kay Duffy 408-867-0508, and Jane Bishop 408-356-7796.
- 28 Tuesday Film Buffs. Meets at 11:30 for lunch at a local restaurant.** For more information, please contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-497-1555.

## December, 2021



- 6 Monday Board Meeting.** Meets at **10:00 am via Zoom.** Please contact Lynn Sprague, 408-867-9375 or [lynnspr@gmail.com](mailto:lynnspr@gmail.com) for Zoom information. **All members are welcome!**
- 7 Tuesday Committee on Homeless Women and Children.** Group will meet for a **Holiday Potluck Lunch** at Nancy Anderson's house. For further details please contact Chair, Nancy Anderson, 408-982-5731
- 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 –HOLIDAY HIKE AND PARTY.** Lovely hike along Fall Creek above Felton, followed by our Holiday party at Hallcrest Winery. Bring individually wrapped "goodies" to share for lunch. Kay provides drinks, plates, utensils. **Meet Promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos.** Free limited parking Northside lot, off Santa Cruz Ave, way behind Starbucks and Petco. *If weather is really poor, we will party at Kay's at 11:30.* Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 16 Thursday Scenic Hikes and Walks - TRAIL CLEANUP =** Back by Noon hike + coffee or lunch. **Meet Promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos.** Free limited parking Northside lot, off Santa Cruz Ave, way behind Starbucks and Petco. Questions? Call Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508
- 17 Friday AM Book Review.** Meets at **10:00 am.** Discuss any book, good or bad, with the group. Contact Chair, Margaret Bard, 408-377-6625 or [margaretbard@gmail.com](mailto:margaretbard@gmail.com) for specific meeting information. **Come 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.** On the eve of Christmas Eve, we will walk through town to enjoy the elaborate holiday decorations --your time to relax a little before the Christmas chores. **Meet promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos.** Free limited parking, Northside lot, way behind Starbucks and Petco. Questions? Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 28 Tuesday Film Buffs.** Meets at **11:30 for lunch at a local restaurant.** For more information, please contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-497-1555.

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



November –  
December, 2021

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

## *Update on AAUW Public Policy*

### **Legislative Action:**

Our last five priority bills that were awaiting the Governor's signature have been acted on:

- SB 62 (requires fair pay, instead of "by the piece" payment, for garment workers) **SIGNED**
- AB 367 (free menstrual products must be provided in girls/women's bathrooms in schools) **SIGNED**
- AB 887 (allows domestic violence restraining orders to be filed electronically) **SIGNED**
- AB 123 (increases paid family leave benefits to 65 – 75% of regular pay) **VETOED**
- AB 1074 (requires hotel and janitorial workers who have lost their jobs due the pandemic to be prioritized for hiring as businesses reopen) **VETOED**

### **Abortion Justice:**

The constitutionally-guaranteed right to an abortion has been systematically under attack for decades. As AAUW National recently noted, "Every person should have the ability to make their own informed decisions regarding their reproductive life. It is beyond time for abortion to be secured legally, funded fully, and equitably available for all who need it, when they need it, without shame or stigma." Urge Congress to pass the Women's Health Protection Act. Watch for Action Alerts from National AAUW, use them to keep pressure on your representatives, and sign-up now for the 2-Minute Activist if you haven't already done so.

*Kathi Harper, Co-Chair AAUW California Public Policy Committee*