

Authors' Luncheon

Proceeds benefit Local Scholarships to women majoring in STEM fields



Lucy Jane Bledsoe

Biting the Apple, and *Tell the Rest* along with many fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children; Lucy is a champion of Title IX and all rights for women.

Website: lucyjanebledsoe.com



Traci Bliss

In *Big Basin Redwood Forest: California's Oldest State Park*; Dr. Bliss shows the indispensable role of women, especially journalists, in saving our unique forest -- a missing story in our state's history.

Website: tracibliss.com



Shirley Tallman

Murder on Nob Hill, *Death on Telegraph Hill* and other Sarah Woodson mysteries, set in San Francisco; Shirley is a novelist and a screenwriter.

Website: amazon.com (or) barnesandnoble.com

Saturday, May 13, 2023

11:30 AM ~ 2:00 PM

Florentine Trattoria

14510 Big Basin Way
Saratoga, CA 95070

Cost: \$60 per person

(\$28 tax deductible)

All lunches include house salad, entrée, tea or coffee, and cookies. You will choose your entrée when you arrive from the following:

- Chicken cannelloni
- Lasagne al forno
- Angel hair pomodori (vegetarian)

Reservations required by May 3

For additional information call or email Arleen Pickett:
(408) 356-3233
arleenpickett@gmail.com

Make your check payable to **ISPF-AAUW** -- cost is \$60 per person. Send by May 3, 2023.

Mail to: Arleen Pickett, 204 Danville Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032

Name(s) _____

Email address _____

(email confirmation will be sent when your check arrives)

Our 2022-2023 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	Arleen Pickett (408) 356-3233	arleenpickett@gmail.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.*

Please Welcome Our Newest Member

Vicki Ratner (Dual member)
17360 High Street
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Phone: 408-569-1100
email: VRatner@aol.com

Columbia University – BS; Upstate Medical School, Syracuse NY – MD, medicine



Membership Renewal for 2023-2024

We will send renewal packets to everyone on our membership roster. National AAUW dues are \$72 (of which \$69 is tax-deductible), California dues are \$20, and branch dues are \$20 for a total of \$112. Dual members pay only Los Gatos-Saratoga dues because their national and California dues are paid through their primary branch. The cost to receive a mailed Grapevine is \$15.

Virginia Turner, Membership VP

Message from Your Co-Presidents

WANTED: BRANCH LEADERS



We are putting together the branch leadership team for 2023-2024. 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! Our Interest Groups are also looking for people to help organize their regular meetings. If you belong to one or more groups, please consider taking on a leadership role for that group. The current coordinator will be happy to discuss what is required.

NEW AAUW LOGO

This copy of the Grapevine includes our new AAUW logo; the major change is the color. Throughout the year we will be updating the logo on our documents and website. But we aren't changing our "true colors" because our mission remains the same: AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Marlene Lamb and Sumi Tanabe, Co-Presidents

Local Scholarship Recipient

The Local Scholarship Committee has awarded a \$3,000 scholarship to a very deserving and highly recommended candidate. **Jessica Velo** will be the first in her family to attend college. She studied Computer Science at West Valley College with the goal of becoming a Data Scientist. She has been accepted to San Jose State University for this fall and hopes to attend the University of California at Irvine for her Master's. Along with working while studying, she has maintained her GPA and has been active on campus in the MESA (Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement Club), the Women in STEM Club, and the Stanford Women in STEM Mentorship Program, as well as the AGS Honor Society. She feels very strongly about having a role mentoring other women in the future.



We hope to meet Jessica in person at an awards ceremony at West Valley College in May. Thank you to all our members who generously donate to our scholarship fund. Your financial support allows our recipients to pursue their STEM educational dreams, and you truly make a difference in their lives.

The Local Scholarship Committee is composed of educators, or those who have worked in educational institutions or STEM fields. The members are: Marilyn Fuller, Chair, Laurie Lindsey, Audry Lynch, Mara Otlans, Jane Parks-McKay, Karen Pock, Julie Stevens, and Sumi Tanabe.

Marilyn Fuller, Local Scholarship Chair

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

Farewell to the Committee on Homeless Women and Children

As the Committee on Homeless Women and Children disbands, we thought it appropriate to tell you what your generous support has accomplished. Along with the listed agencies and our contributions to them, there were untold number of hours and an unknown amount of out-of-pocket money given by the members. Some of the work from early days was not recorded.

From the start we agreed not to provide rent to families as it would quickly consume our funds. The first shelter we worked with was the Family Living Center on the grounds of the now-closed



Agnew State Hospital. We provided food and supplies, hygiene products and cleaning supplies, and outfitted a library with donated books for a total of \$4,940. Other early connections included El Zocalo/Women's Housing Connection where we provided food and clothing; San Jose First Community Center to whom we donated \$200; Martha's Kitchen, \$1,500 and Second Harvest, \$1,500.

Sunday Friends provides tutoring to low-income children and their families; each completed educational task earns "points" which could be spent at the "store." We donated \$3,951. To the Overfelt High School Abuse Program we donated \$500. Friends of Human Relations Council received \$895; Friends Together received \$1,100; and at Grace Baptist Church we provided soaps, towels and fees for mobile showers and \$1,250. Grateful Garments gives clothing to hospitals for victims of rape and abuse; we donated \$4,500.

Casa de Clara offers transitional housing; we provided products for the mobile showers and cleaning supplies as residents moved into a home; we donated \$7,354. St. Luke's Pantry at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Los Gatos received lunches and support for emergency services for women and children; we donated \$11,200. At Bill Wilson Center our donations went to the maternity program for homeless women ages 18-24; gift cards during the holidays could be used for themselves or for gifts. We donated \$4,100. Women's Gathering Place/Lifted Spirits at the First Presbyterian Church received lunches and a refrigerator and a dishwasher. We donated \$3,190. To Catholic Charities we donated emergency aid for women and children, \$13,692.

The final two shelters occupied the majority of our hands-on time and the bulk of our treasure. The first is the San Jose Family Shelter, now called Family Supportive Housing. When our involvement began, shelter regulations specified that residents must not occupy the building between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. However, the YWCA began a child-care program at the shelter, to which we donated \$8,700, which left the mothers free. Our founder **Georgia Travis** saw an opportunity to start a "Mother's Club" and, using one of the public rooms, a number of our members and invited community experts taught classes in nutrition, parenting, money management, etc. We outfitted another library. Our support for the Mother's Club totaled \$13,538. When the program closed, the visiting public-health nurse organized a lunch cooked by the women as a thank you from them. Held at Emma Prusch Farm Park we ate their delicious ethnic foods and had a joyous time. In recent years we have donated to the shelter's campership program so that the children have all the supplies and clothing they need for summer camp.

Our donations to Family Supportive Housing - \$88,210!



At one of our early meetings Georgia Travis expressed her concern over the daytime closing of the overnight shelters which left the women and small children no place to go. To our collective shock, she announced that we would open a daytime drop-in center in San Jose. The Junior League of San Jose was also looking for a new project, and Georgia convinced them to join with us. InnVision, (now Life Moves), a San Jose shelter agency, took this project under their umbrella. The Georgia Travis Center opened in 1992 across the street from the Wyndam hotel. Managed by our dear Rosemary (Sister Rosie) Statt, it provided a safe place for women and children with emergency services, case management, child development and parenting education along with showers, laundry facilities, and a microwave kitchen. Best of all were newspapers (no computers then) for job and house hunting. The building provided an address to receive mail and a phone number for employer and doctor calls. We bought mountains of diapers, formula, and baby food, and we sorted donated clothing. We also bought some unique items: a very over-large bra, steel toed shoes for a heavy machinery trainee, and a uniform for a fledgling nurse. We paid for the outdoor playground. At the holiday season the back rooms were used as a community “Santa’s cupboard.”

In 2003 this first Georgia Travis Center closed but reopened in a large warehouse on Commercial Street, across from one of the overnight shelters now named Georgia Travis House. With this added space, we added sewing classes and computer skills, and a doctor from Kaiser held a pro bono weekly clinic. We served Thanksgiving and holiday meals and watched the excited women open the gifts from our branch and a group of golfers who donated in memory of our member Anne Dempsey. We donated to InnVision/Life Moves for the drop-in Center and their transitional housing for women, The Villa. **Georgia was right – we provided a needed project at the right time. We donated \$139,143!!**

In addition to the above, we attended town meetings to bring homelessness to the politicians’ attention; caused Stanford to do a study; studied the problem ourselves as we listened to many guests to our meetings. In recent days we made international donations to Afghanistan, for Women Helping Women - \$390; and to the Ukraine Children’s Fund - \$5,000. All this was funded by donations and of course by the English Tea and Silent Auction. We thank the merchants and members that gave items for the silent auction. A special thanks goes to all our



young servers and the family helpers setting up. We all enjoyed this event, the pretty china on the tables, the tasty treats and the opportunity to buy new-to-you jewelry.

Throughout all these many years the Committee enjoyed potluck lunches and dinners and special camaraderie. It was a great 36 years. Many thanks for all your fantastic support!

*Nancy Anderson, Chair, and
JoAn Lambert, Treasurer*

Committee Members:

Back row (L to R): Nancy Anderson, Kerstin Stone, Marlene Lamb

Front row (L to R) Sumi Tanabe, JoAn Lambert, Judy Borlase, Vicki Feigelson

May, 2023



- 1 Monday Board Meeting.** Meets at **10:00 am via Zoom.** Please contact Sumi Tanabe at atanbe@hotmail.com or Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com for information.
- 2 Tuesday Conversations in Spanish.** Meets at **3:00 pm via Zoom.** Please contact Marilyn Fuller, 408-679-1167 if interested in joining, and for Zoom details.
- 5 Friday Armchair Adventure Travels. Tour of India – and Tigers!** presented by Gina Cheeseman Barton, photographer and co-owner of Cheesemans' Ecology Tours. Meets at **7:30 pm via Zoom.** This presentation ends the 2022-2023 season; the programs will return in October.
Contact JoAn Lambert for Zoom link at jgdblamm@earthlink.net or 408-867-6237.
- 11 Thursday Scenic Hikes and Walks – WINDY HILL.** Good up and shady down-hill loop with spectacular wildflowers. **Meet promptly, 9 AM, Saratoga,** Argonaut Shopping Center, Sunnyvale/Saratoga Road, opposite CVS. Questions? Contact Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 13 Saturday Authors' Luncheon, 11:30 am – 2:00 pm.** Florentine Trattoria, 14510 Big Basin Way, Saratoga, CA. **Reservations required by May 3; cost is \$60.** Invite your friends for lunch and great book talks with three local authors; see front page of this Grapevine for reservation details. Contact Arleen Pickett at 408-356-3233 or arleenpickett@gmail.com for more information.
- 16 Tuesday Conversations in Spanish.** Meets at **3:00 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. For details, contact Chair, Margaret Bard, 408-377-6625 or margaretbard@gmail.com. **Come and Find Your Next Great Read.**
- 25 Thursday Scenic Hikes and Walks – BACK BY NOON HIKE + coffee or lunch.** **Meet promptly, 9 AM, Saratoga,** Argonaut Shopping Center, Sunnyvale/Saratoga Road, opposite CVS. Questions? Contact Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 30 Tuesday Film Buffs.** Meets at **11:30 am.** Contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-497-1555 for details.

Grapevine Committee: Virginia Turner, editor; Julie Stevens, calendar; Ann Griffin, proofreader; Laurie Lindsey, web liaison. Deadline for July-August, 2023 issue is **June 16, 2023.** Email materials to vturner@sbcglobal.net. Branch website: <https://losgatos-saratoga-ca.aauw.net/>

June, 2023



- 5 Monday Board Meeting.** Meets at **10 AM via Zoom.** Please contact Sumi Tanabe atanbe@hotmail.com or Laurie Lindsey at lauriellindsey@gmail.com for information. All members are welcome!
- 6 Tuesday Conversations in Spanish.** Meets at **3:00 pm via Zoom.** Please contact Marilyn Fuller, 408-679-1167, if interested in joining, and for Zoom details.
- 8 Thursday Scenic Hikes and Walks – NOLA’S IRIS GARDEN – PREVOST RANCH.** In the hills to the east, wander among the spectacular blossoming bearded iris. Visit the horses. Bring a picnic lunch. **Meet Promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos.** Free limited parking Northside lot, behind Starbucks and Petco. Questions? Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 15 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, behind Starbucks and Petco. Bring gloves and clippers, if you have them; bags and grabbers will be provided. Questions? Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 16 Friday AM Book Review.** Meets at **10:00 am.** Discuss a book, good or bad, with others in the group. For details, contact Chair, Margaret Bard, 408-377-6625 or margaretbard@gmail.com. **Come and Find Your Next Great Read.**
- 20 Tuesday Conversations in Spanish.** Meets at **3:00 pm via Zoom.** Please contact Marilyn Fuller, 408-679-1167 if interested in joining, and for Zoom details.
- 22 Thursday Scenic Hikes and Walks -- BACK BY NOON HIKE + coffee or lunch?** **Meet Promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos.** Free limited parking Northside lot, behind Starbucks and Petco. Questions? Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 27 Tuesday Film Buffs.** Meets at **11:30 am.** Contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408- 497-1555.



Los Gatos Creek Trail

Every two months, on an extra Thursday, our Hikes and Walks group cleans up a section of the Los Gatos Trail adopted twenty years ago (2003) by our AAUW branch. Look for the sign when you are walking along the Trail near downtown Los Gatos.



May –
June, 2023

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

AAUW CA Lobby Days and Public Policy Priorities

Our Lobby Days on March 21 and 22 saw 120 AAUW CA members from 50 branches meet with 46 Assembly offices and 23 Senate offices, either via Zoom or in person. Most meetings were with legislative staff, and 10 meetings were with the members themselves, including the Governor's staff and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon's office.

We familiarized these staff members and legislators with our public policy priorities; and provided background about AAUW's mission and programs. Our "Top 3" bills - AB 1394, SB 287, and AB 549 – were generally well received. The first two address the problem of having children targeted by social media, and AB 549 deals with CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. You can find more information on these and all the bills we are supporting here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2023/03/bill-tracking.pdf>. We got our message across to those who make our laws and highlighted AAUW, our mission, accomplishments, and the benefits we bring to our local communities. It was an empowering exercise in advocacy, and AAUW – CA thanks all who participated!

Vote on the Public Policy Priorities for 2023-2025: These are available on the State website: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2023-proposed-public-policy-priorities/>. Voting is open through May 13th, so make sure your voice is heard!

Ginny Hatfield, Amy Hom and Kathi Harper, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee