



## *Grapevine Newsletter*

September - October, 2023

### *Kicking Off the New AAUW Year*

**Saturday, September 9, 2023**

**10:00 AM ~ 12 noon**

Fellowship Hall, Immanuel Lutheran Church

14103 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070

This inspiring and fun morning will connect you with AAUW in person. Light refreshments will be served. Guests and prospective members are always welcome!

- Our **Local Scholarship winner, Jessica Velo**, will tell us about her educational journey to pursue her goal of becoming a Data Scientist.
- Our **Tech Trek girls** spent a week in residential camp at Sonoma State University. What did they learn? Have they changed their attitude toward classes in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math)?



Then our own **Margaret Bard** will share some mysterious tales from her attendance at the Mystery Writers Convention. Come and hear about “whodunit” and other stories from an avid reader.

### *Cyber Security: Protect Yourself from the Crooks*

**Monday, October 16, 2023**

**10:30 AM ~ 12:00 noon**

Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070

Your personal and cyber security are always under threat from unscrupulous and dangerous actors. How can you protect yourself personally and while online? The Santa Clara County **District Attorney's office** has strategies and tools you can use to stay as safe as possible.

*Open to everyone. We look forward to seeing you soon!*

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

## ***Our 2023-2024 Elected Officers***

Co-President	Arleen Pickett (408) 356-3233	<a href="mailto:arleenpickett@gmail.com">arleenpickett@gmail.com</a>
Co-President	Laurie Lindsey (303) 941-1956	<a href="mailto:lauriellindsey@gmail.com">lauriellindsey@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Lynn Sprague (408) 867-9375	<a href="mailto:lynnspr@gmail.com">lynnspr@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Mara Otlans (253) 202-3307	<a href="mailto:marafelz@comcast.net">marafelz@comcast.net</a>
AAUW Fund VP	Arleen Pickett (408) 356-3233	<a href="mailto:arleenpickett@gmail.com">arleenpickett@gmail.com</a>
Membership VP	Virginia Turner (408) 866-4234	<a href="mailto:vturner@sbcglobal.net">vturner@sbcglobal.net</a>
Membership Treasurer	Louise Quenon (408) 867-0698	<a href="mailto:lquenon@comcast.net">lquenon@comcast.net</a>

### ***AAUW MISSION STATEMENT***

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

## ***In Memoriam***

**Cathy Foscatto** died June 19, 2023. She joined AAUW in 1951 after graduating from Colorado University, Boulder with a BA in sociology. She traveled extensively with her late husband Sid, and collected a variety of souvenirs from those trips. For many years she was in charge of the sorting room for the Book-Go-Round in Saratoga and hosted a holiday party for the volunteers. She is survived by her daughters Kyle and Kim.

**Madeleine Salzman** died in July, 2023. She earned her BA in psychology from Boston University, and her MA in Clinical Social Work from UC Berkeley. She had her own practice which she loved. She was active in the Great Decisions Program and the Film Buffs group as well as Shir Hadash in Los Gatos.

**Theresa Yuen** died July 13, 2023. She was passionate about hiking, not just with the branch Hiking and Walking group, but especially around her neighborhood where she lived in the house she had designed 58 years earlier (her degree from UC Berkeley was in architecture). She is survived by her children Tiffany and Peter.

## *Message from Our Co-Presidents*

As summer draws to a close, Arleen and I are excited to kick off our year of programs. Our first in-person General Meeting in several years will be on September 9. Meet some fascinating young women and hear about our plans for the coming year. Details are on the front page of this Grapevine, or check our website for an online flyer. Guests and prospective members are welcome. We think it will be fun for everyone!



This morning, as I checked my credit card statement, I realized there were two \$175 charges on the same day from a gas station in Colfax, California. Doesn't it seem like we have to be constantly vigilant to avoid these sorts of fraud and scams? Arleen has arranged for the District Attorney's office to speak with us about this issue on October 16 at the Saratoga Library. Details are on the front cover.

I don't know if you've been following AAUW California news. The item that caught my eye recently was about the California School Board Project which is summarized on the last page of this Grapevine. I'm sure we've all been concerned about the looming specter of book banning and censorship – especially in the public schools. We encourage you to learn more about this and register for the Webinar on September 21.

I was reading an important book recently, *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks. It occurred to me that dealing with issues of racism, homosexuality and the like, this book would likely be banned in some areas of the country. As passionate readers, it's hard to imagine not having access to important books, so this project is particularly urgent. As Californians, it would be easy to become complacent about such issues, but there are regions of California that are inclined to control books and information.

Finally, Arleen and I want to thank those who filled out the program Interest Survey. We have been using the results to help guide us in pursuit of program topics. We hope you will like what we have planned and will come and participate.

We look forward to seeing you September 9!

*Laurie Lindsey*

## *Another View of Tech Trek*

Cynthia Miller, our Tech Trek coordinator, served as a dorm mom at the Sonoma State University camp. She isn't usually this scary, and says she got along just fine with the girls, but the girls thought this picture was pretty funny. A more traditional picture is on the front page of this newsletter.



## *Interest Groups and Committees*

### *Authors' Lunch Committee*

We will plan a lunch and invite three authors to come and speak to us in the spring of 2024. 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](mailto:arleenpickett@gmail.com).**



### *Bridge*

We currently have a duplicate group and a “social” group and are always looking for more players to join our groups as regular members or subs. Each bridge group plays one afternoon per month.

**Louise Quenon, 408-867-0698 or email [lquenon@comcast.net](mailto: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 have held occasional meetings in each other’s homes.

**Margaret Bard, 408-377-6625 or email [margaretbard@gmail.com](mailto:margaretbard@gmail.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](mailto:mdfuller1@aol.com).**

### *Film Buffs*

We meet the LAST Tuesday of the month, and in some months we go 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](mailto: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. A briefing book provides background information for each topic, and a video is also available. **Ginger Good at (408) 866-1331 or email [villavis@ix.netcom.com](mailto:villavis@ix.netcom.com).**

### ***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](mailto: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](mailto:Jtrailcats@aol.com)**

**Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508 or email [k@kayduffywatercolors.com](mailto:k@kayduffywatercolors.com)**

### ***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! Following the initial presentation, the talks are posted on our branch website for your enjoyment.

**JoAn Lambert, 408-867-6237 or email [jgdblamm@earthlink.net](mailto:jgdblamm@earthlink.net)**



*Prospective members are welcome to sample our interest groups. Please contact the section leader for further information.*

### ***We're Looking for Chess Players***

Our new member Carolus Boekema would like to start a Chess group. Are you interested? Please contact Carolus at 408-390-6984 or email [BoekemaC@aol.com](mailto:BoekemaC@aol.com) for more information.



## September, 2023



- 5 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.
- 9 Saturday General Meeting – KICKOFF PARTY.** Starts at 10:00 am, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 14103 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga. Details on the front page of this newsletter.
- 11 Monday No Board Meeting in September.**
- 14 Thursday Scenic Hikes and Walks – BEACH HIKE AND ANNUAL CLEAN-UP.** Hike the beach at Moss Landing. Bring gloves and bags. Reward ourselves with lunch at (Captain) Phil's Fish Market. **Meet promptly, 9 AM, Los Gatos**, free limited parking Northside lot, behind Starbucks and Petco. Questions? Hikes and Walks leaders Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, and 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. For details, contact Chair, Margaret Bard, 408-377-6625 or [margaretbard@gmail.com](mailto:margaretbard@gmail.com). **Come and Find Your Next Great Read!**
- 19 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.
- 26 Tuesday Film Buffs.** Meets at **11:30 am**. Contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408-497-1555 for details.
- 28 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? Contact Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.

## Directory Corrections

Judy Davidson email address: [judydsierra@gmail.com](mailto:judydsierra@gmail.com)  
Diane McLaughlin phone number: 408-806-9655



Those who receive the *Grapevine* by mail should have received the 2023-2024 directory by mail; those who receive the *Grapevine* by email should have received it by email. It is also available in the Members Only section of our website.

Please send corrections or changes to Louise Quenon, our database manager, at 408-867-0698 or [lquenon@comcast.net](mailto:lquenon@comcast.net).

## October, 2023



- 2 Monday Board Meeting.** Meets at **10 AM via Zoom.** Please contact Sumi Tanabe at [atanabe@hotmail.com](mailto:atanabe@hotmail.com) or Laurie Lindsey at [lauriellindsey@gmail.com](mailto:lauriellindsey@gmail.com) for information. All members are welcome!
- 3 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.
- 6 Friday Armchair Adventure Travels. Malta: Crossroads of the Mediterranean,** presented by member Virginia Turner. Meets at **7:30 pm via Zoom.** Malta's rich history goes back more than 6,000 years with megalithic temples older than the Pyramids, spectacular cathedrals which trace their roots to the apostle Paul, mansions of the Knights of St. John of "Maltese Falcon" fame, and underground rooms which track its heroic role in World War II. *Contact JoAn Lambert for Zoom link at [jgdblamm@earthlink.net](mailto:jgdblamm@earthlink.net) or 408-867-6237.*
- 12 Thursday Scenic Hikes and Walks – SHORELINE PARK.** Easy walk along the Bay at Charleston Slough, lots of birds. Bing lunch. **Meet Promptly, 9 AM, Saratoga.** Argonaut Shopping Center, Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road, opposite CVS. Questions? Jane Bishop, 408-356-7796, or Kay Duffy, 408-867-0508.
- 16 Monday General Meeting -- Cyber Security: Protect Yourself from the Crooks. Saratoga Library, 10:30 AM – 12:00 noon.** Presented by the District Attorney's office. See front page for details.
- 17 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 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.
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- 26 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.
- 31 Tuesday Film Buffs.** Meets at **11:30 am.** Contact Chair, Marlene Lamb, 408- 497-1555 for details.

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



September –  
October, 2023

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

### ***Prevent Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California***

In a 2023 survey, AAUW members made it clear that they were alarmed by the nationwide movement to ban books and censor curricula in K-12 schools, particularly as this censorship denies students' access to historically accurate information pertaining to marginalized groups. The California Public Policy Committee is hosting an important webinar on September 21 at 7 pm via Zoom for a presentation of "Book Banning and Curricula Censorship in California? AAUW California to the Rescue!"

Kathi Harper, School Board Project Committee Chair, will explain the project, what we are doing, and how all AAUW California members can help. Representatives from our collaborative partner, Equality California, and from the League of Women Voters will provide guidance on how to speak out effectively and civilly at school board meetings. Registration is required; the link can be found on the AAUW California website. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#) The session will also be recorded and made available on the AAUW California website.

*Kathy Harper, Chair "School Board Project" Sub-Committee, AAUW California*

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