

Los Gatos – Saratoga Branch of AAUW Local Scholarship Committee Report For 2023-2024

The Local Scholarship Committee of the Los Gatos – Saratoga Branch awards scholarships to women transferring from the local community college, West Valley College, to a four-year institution with a major in mathematics, sciences or related fields. The committee consisted of the following Branch members: Laurie Lindsey (chair), Audry Lynch, Mara Otlans, Julie Stevens, Sumi Tanabe. Marilyn Fuller, the former chair of the committee served for a portion of the year, before passing away on May 1, 2024. Two members from the previous year, Karen Pock, and Jane Parks-McKay, resigned from the committee due to health issues.

This year, the committee decided to re-join the West Valley Mission Foundation. This was done for several reasons:

1. We had significant difficulty during the past several years in obtaining qualified candidates to receive the scholarship
2. We felt that we should be focusing our efforts on fundraising, rather than trying to seek out candidates.
3. We felt that joining the foundation was more respectful of the student's time because they only had to fill out a single application for many potential scholarships,
4. We felt the WFM-Foundation could do a significantly better job of honoring the students, since they had more resources. In addition, the student need only show up to one celebration to be honored.

Funds for scholarships that will be awarded in 2024 were raised by the following methods:

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| 1. Donations with membership renewal: | \$1210.50 |
| 2. Miscellaneous donations: | \$ 350.00 |
| 3. Authors Luncheon | \$1185.51 |
| 4. Donations in memory of Marilyn Fuller | \$2000.00 (to date) |

The process for selecting a student this year was considerably more efficient and we received a total of six strong candidates. The WVM-Foundation provided transcripts, two essays, and two recommendations for each student. They also provided a scoring sheet, which we used to help select the student. I asked the members to share their scoring sheets and we found that doing so allowed us to narrow the choices. After a discussion in which each member of the committee shared their thought process, we selected Jackeline Arrellano to receive this year's \$3000 scholarship.

It is the intention of the committee to provide two scholarships in 2024, continuing with the West Valley Mission Foundation:

1. Our usual \$3000 transfer scholarship
2. A special one-time scholarship in memory of Marilyn Fuller.

Please note that we did not raise enough money to cover the \$3000 scholarship that we intend to award next year, but we believe there are sufficient funds in the account to cover the deficit. In addition, if we do not receive sufficient donations in memory of Marilyn Fuller, our intention is to top up that scholarship to be \$3000. If we receive more than \$3000 in donations in Marilyn's memory, then we will offer the entire amount as part of the special one-time scholarship.

I will be continuing as the chairperson for 2024-2025. The other members of the committee have also indicated a willingness to continue serving. Since our numbers have been diminished due to death and health issues, we hope to recruit at least one additional person to serve on the committee from among our new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Lindsey
Local Scholarship Chair