

The Wildflower

March-April 2019

Volume XXXVII, Issue 4

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, 7 P.M. AT THE MORGAN HILL LIBRARY.

Contact: Yvonne Randolph, VP Programs

MARCH 26: FOOD RESCUE: Lessons Learned in the Field for Solving the Crises of Hunger and Waste.



AAUW Morgan Hill member, **Dr. Nancy Fishman**, was the founder of the nationally recognized food rescue organization *Forgotten Harvest*, operational since 1990 in the greater metro Detroit area. Using lessons learned from her past experience as a springboard, Nancy has helped create a custom solution unique to this region— *A La Carte Silicon Valley Food Rescue*, a Silicon Valley Joint Venture initiative to serve Santa Clara County. Food that would otherwise go to waste is rescued and



distributed free of charge to the food insecure.

Despite the tech boom, the poverty rate in the San Francisco Bay Area is near record high. In Santa Clara County alone, more than 200,000 people are living below the official poverty line. Overall one in six Bay Area residents is food insecure.

Please come and hear Nancy's inspirational talk and learn more about this exciting program and how we can all make a difference by reducing greenhouse emissions and eliminating food waste.

APRIL 23: Coyote Valley Landscape Linkage Project—A Vision for a Resilient, Multi-benefit Landscape

Gail Basson, project Manager for the Coyote Valley Wildlife Linkage project, will speak about tracking wildlife movement between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range, and the Morgan Hill connection.

Why is this "wildlife corridor" important? What local animal and plant-life are we protecting? How is it mutually beneficial & tied with renewal of our vital water resources? Fun, educational and interactive, do not miss this. *Click on the image for more information about the project.*





Our 2019 Wildflower Run is on March 31st! We need your help!

We need your help to promote the run. We need volunteers to support the run, either with a job before the run, or on the day of the run. See page 4 in this issue for more information and who to contact, and also to make a donation.

In this Issue:

Co Presidents message & Leadership Workshop Review p. 2 Slate of Officers p. 3; Wildflower Run, Sponsors & Fund, p. 4 Membership News & 3rd 'Why I moved to Morgan Hill" article p. 5 Community Action Grants & Legal Advocacy p.6 Friendship & Memorable Travels p. 7 Monthly Program Synopsis & Tech Trek p. 8 Keeping in Touch & Schlarships p 9

AAUW Calendar



THE CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Maggie Leininger



I Hope you all are staying dry and warm this winter! On rainy days my mantra is "we need the water".

AAUW Morgan Hill hosted two fantastic events in January. First was our annual Speech Trek. Many thanks to **Joanne Rooney** for taking the lead with this program. We had eight high school entrants and I did not envy the judges having to choose who was best. Our second program was a workshop developed by our Leadership Development committee. The goal was to inform and motivate newer members on what we do and what opportunities exist for involvement in the branch. We were honored to have **Carolyn Garfein**, past President AAUW National, speak to the group about the master plan that AAUW National has set for itself.

Thank you to **Jenny Redfern** for planning and hosting the annual February Wine & Whine at Rosy's. This is always a well-attended event where our newest members can find out more about our branch.

Also, a reminder to keep track of our monthly programs. You can find out more about our events online at www.aauwmh.org.

Peggy Martin



The 2019 year has started off quick-paced with lots of activity and meaningful and empowering events.

In Speech Trek, led by Joanne Rooney, participating students gave speeches on the topic "How can we eliminate violence aimed at our schools?" I am so in awe of these well-spoken young students, and the passion they exuded about the topic. These participants are our future. I am glad to have a small part in helping them succeed.

It was rewarding to host Carolyn Garfein, Past President of AAUW National 2009-2013 and current Vice-Chair of the Nominating Committee for AAUW National and a member of their Strategic Task Force. Our Leadership Development Workshop was a success and gave members an opportunity to hear about AAUW's mission and

what our branch has done for our local community and for the AAUW National mission. Thanks to Janet McElroy for creating and leading this event.

I look forward to the Future Women's Leadership Conference in April. The students are exceptional, talented and enthusiastic. Hats off to Margaret McCann who provides guidance and leadership to these future women leaders.

I look forward to our 2019 Wildflower Run on March 31. Thanks Pat Toombs and Debra Buchanan-Plaisance.

I am grateful and delighted to be part of this organization and serve as President/Co-President for these last two years. Serving with Maggie as a Co-President has been a very rewarding experience. Thanks, Maggie.

I am also very grateful for all Board & Committee Members and our entire Membership. Together we are "Leading the Way, Community Involvement."

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM WORKSHOP

Janet McElroy



Carolyn Garfein, past AAUW National president, was the highlight of the workshop presented by the Leadership Development Team on January 26th. Several branch members gathered together to hear her present future plans for our organization, and our history and past accomplishments too. One important goal is to train 10 million women to negotiate their financial future through the

<u>Work Smart</u> program by 2022. Members were encouraged to inform their daughters, grand-daughters and others to participate in

this vital training. We need to close the gender pay gap!

Prior to Carolyn's presentation, new members learned about AAUW's mission, history, Tech Trek, scholarships, community grants and research, and how they could get involved. The topic of politics vs. partisan was featured during the section on public policy. It was an informative and exciting morning.





Back L-R: Janet McElroy, Pat Toombs, Joan Ensign, Maggie Leininger, Carol O'Hare, Carolyn Garfein, Peggy Martin. Front L-R Kathy Hansell, Patricia Kindred

SLATE OF OFFICERS 2018-2019

Pat Toombs, Nominating Committee Chair

Here are the Nominations Committee's recommendations for the slate of elected board positions for AAUW Morgan Hill 2019-2020 year, beginning July 1st 2019. The Nominations Committee for this year consisted of: Kathy Hansell, Patricia Kindred, Janet McElroy, and Pat Toombs (Chair).

Election 'XK

Based on our branch Bylaws, our members have the opportunity to make additional nominations before the slate is voted on in April. Please send any nominations to Pat Toombs by March 15. The final slate of officers and voting instructions will be sent to all members by April 1.

President: Maggie Leininger.

Maggie is currently Co-President with Peggy Martin. Maggie's AAUW experience includes Membership Co-VP for 3 years, and President Elect for 1 year, Interest Group Coordinator, as well as several WFR Chair positions, currently T-shirts Chair. Outside experience includes Leadership Morgan Hill class of 2015. Her past professional life includes Operations Manager at a local construction company.

President Elect: Marian Sacco.

Marian's AAUW experience includes WFR Medals Chair, Tech Trek Camp Interviews and AAUW Taste of MH booth. Outside experience includes Vice President and Board member of her HOA, Leadership Morgan Hill class of 2005, Leadership MH Alumni Committee, and many other volunteer positions. Her professional life includes past Sr. VP for Women's Healthcare for a medical tech company, and she currently works as a Realtor handling low income housing.

CFO/Treasurer: Tessy Albin.

Her AAUW experience includes WFR Water Stops Chair for several years. Tessy has recently retired, her professional experience included Controller at a high-tech company on the peninsula, as well as ownership of her own company in Morgan Hill and extensive financial and accounting experience.

VP Programs: Yvonne Randolph.

Yvonne became Co-VP Programs with Margie Snively this current year, even though she was brand new to AAUW. Her other AAUW experience includes Finish Fest at the WFR. Yvonne recently retired from a full-time position at a local tech firm, but still takes on clients that need her expertise for specific projects.

VP Membership: Kathy Hansell.

Kathy's AAUW experience includes VP Membership for 3 years, Membership committee, Leadership committee, AAUW booth for WFR, Reentry Scholarship Chair, Afternoon book club. Her professional experience includes 31 years of teaching, spanning nursery school, middle school, and community college.

VP AAUW Funds: Janet Wright.

Janet is currently VP AAUW Funds, she's held this position for 2 years. Her other AAUW experience includes Legal Advocacy Chair, In-Kind Sponsors Chair for the WFR and other committee participation. Janet has recently retired from Real Estate Law.

Secretary: Coleen Colwell.

Coleen is currently Secretary. She is a member of the AAUW Evening Book Group, and currently works at BookSmart.





WILDFLOWER RUN: SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019

Deb Buchanan-Plaisance and Pat Toombs,

2019 WFR Co-Directors

Our 2019 Wildflower Run is on March 31st!

Even though the weather isn't cooperating yet, our 2019 Wildflower Run is nearly here! We really need your help promoting it, and volunteering to support the run, either with a job before the run, or on March 31st, the day of the run. During the run, AAUW and community volunteers gather to cheer on runners, give out t-shirts and goodie bags, answer questions, and support our sponsors at the Finish Fest

area. If you don't have a job, please contact volunteer coordinator <u>Janet McElroy</u>, and she can set you up with something you'll enjoy.

If you have not sent in your Wildflower Run Donation (tax deductible, check with your tax preparer) please contact <u>Carol O'Hare</u> for payment options, or you can use the <u>PayPal link</u> from the Wildflower Run Website.

Please remind friends and family and any groups that you may be a member of that registration fees go up on March 22nd. For the best rates, register now! We give additional discount codes (\$5 off each registration) for groups of 10 or more, and family rates for 4-6 persons. Please get additional registration information online at www.wildflowerrun.org.

Our new Morgan Hill Mayor Rich Constantine will be kicking off both 5K and 10K runs, and helping to give out medals to our winners after the Run at the Finish Fest area. This year's pre-Run packet pickup on Saturday the 30th will be held at BookSmart's new location in the Vineyard Town Center.

ANNUAL WILDFLOWER FUND GIVING CAMPAIGN

Carol O'Hare, Member Donations

Our thanks to the many members who have already made their contribution to The Wildflower Fund. The Fund supports all of our branch's philanthropic activities: local scholarships and grants, Tech Trek, and national AAUW programs. It includes donations from members, contributions from Wildflower Run corporate sponsors, and proceeds from the Run.

Please make your donation today; no amount is too small. You may make your gift by

- Check (payable to ISPF-AAUW) and mail to Wildflower Fund, AAUW-MH, P.O. Box 1528, Morgan Hill, CA 95038 OR
- Online through PayPal at www.aauwmh.org. (Scroll down to the bottom and click on the Donate button.)

Thank you for supporting education and equity for women and girls.





Wildflowers of Morgan Hill—a field of mustard (also known as rapeseed) Photo by Jenny Redfern

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Jenny Redfern, Membership VP

What a good time we had at the New Members Wine & Whine at Rosy's At The Beach on Feb. 20! The crowd included eleven members who have joined within the past year and 10 guests including 2 Members At Large (members at only the National level). We had some success guessing "who's the famous woman" from descriptions prepared by Linnie Lee, Wine & Whine chair, and enjoyed the potted cineraria drawing prizes, provided by Monica McClintock of the Membership Committee.



Many thanks also to Kathy Hansell, Barbara Palmer, and Pat Toombs for making everyone feel welcomed.

Please welcome our most recent new AAUW MH members:

- Alice Jones joined at the New Member W&W. Alice is a graduate of Bucknell Univ., and looks forward to volunteering at the Wildflower Run.
- Marilyn Pifer wants to help with Tech Trek and other science-related activities. She has PhD in molecular biology and genetics from Johns Hopkins.
- Laurie Mobilio looks forward to connecting with our members and community. She has a BA from Wellesley and works part-time for LSA Global.
- Mary Ludwick, still working at Cisco, has rejoined our branch.

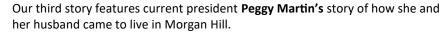


In the photo, from left
Julie Singh (MAL), Marilyn Pifer,
Noemi Schambach, Kay Arora, Linnie Lee,
Heather Perlitch, Mary Ludwick,
Patrice Lyn, Mary Patterson, Marcia
Fishman, Laurie Mobilio, Barbara Montes

HOW I CAME TO LIVE IN MORGAN HILL

Here is the third installment of 'How I Came to Live in Morgan Hill'. This was originally a topic worked on by the Friday Writers Interest Group.

We will be posting a teaser in each issue of the newsletter with a link to the entire story. We hope these stories will inspire you to write your own, which we will be happy to publish.







It was January of 2005 – Craig and I were excited about remodeling a portion of our South San Jose home. A new entry-way was to be created, and a kitchen upgrade that I had been looking forward to for more than a decade. We were also about to embark on our second trip to Europe, this time to Ireland and London. Our trip was fast approaching, and I wanted the remodel completed before leaving!

We were about to sign the project agreement with our contractor when...

(For the rest of the story click here)

If you missed our first two stories, click on the names Jean Pinard, Elsa Walton

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS

Susan Rife, Chair

Community Action Grants: AAUW

The Community Action Grants committee has awarded \$4,000 to seven local not-for-profit organizations in support of programs designed for broad-based educational programs, programs for underserved populations and programs targeting equity for women and girls.

Recipients of 2019 grants are:

- Community Solutions, \$1,000 for its Creative Powerful Women art therapy program for women who are victims of domestic violence.
- Learning and Loving Center, \$900 for textbooks for ESL students.
- **Discovery Counseling Center**, \$750 for 20 students to participate in its six-week Bold Journey referral program for students with social and behavior struggles.
- **Booksmart Community Advantage**, \$250 for its Stop the Summer Slump program to provide books to Title I children at PA Walsh, Barrett and San Martin Gwinn schools.
- South Valley Science and Engineering Fair, \$300.
- San Martin Gwinn School, \$500 in support of middle school athletics.
- Future Women Leaders, \$300 in support of its upcoming conference.

The CAG committee received nine grant applications.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

Janet Wright, LAF Chair

AAUW signed on to two amicus briefs challenging the Trump administration's contraceptive coverage rules: Commonwealth for Pennsylvania v. Donald J. Trump, et.al. in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and State of California v. Health and Human Services, et.al. in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.



The administration issued final versions of two proposed Interim Final Rules (IFRs) that rolled back the Affordable Care Act (ACA) contraceptive mandate by exempting organizations with religious or moral objections. AAUW stands with other organizations trying to persuade the courts that no-cost coverage of contraception is critical for women's professional and educational success. AAUW believes that the exemption rules will cause irreparable harm to hundreds of thousands of women who are employed or associated with religiously-affiliated nonprofits, such as hospitals and colleges, as well as by non-profits and private non-religious employers.

In January, a federal judge in California ruled that the final rules would cause harm to the 13 state plaintiffs represented in the case and issued an order preventing the final rules from going into effect in those 13 states while the lawsuit proceeds. A day later, in Pennsylvania, a judge issued a preliminary injunction blocking the rules from taking effect nationwide.





FRIENDSHIP

Donna Dicker, Friendship Chair



Our own **Carol Holzgrafe** will be running for the position of state director of AAUW California. Carol's extensive Tech Trek experience will be a valuable asset to our State organization. Let's support Carol.

Former Speech Trek winner, Nikhita Gopisetty, continued her winning ways with a first place win at the 2019 South Valley Science and Engineering Fair held in January. Nikhita's biology project on diabetes was based on personal experience, she was diagnosed with diabetes at age 5. **Susan Oldham Fritz** ably chaired the science fair.

Memorable Travels

Carol O'Hare (R) and her sister spent a week in Cuba on a Road Scholar program. "We learned about the lives of the Cuban people and how they have been affected by the 1959 revolution, the US embargo, and more recent economic changes. The 1950s convertibles are a fun tourist attraction!" The photo below shows Carol (R) and her sister in such a car. The photo at right is a public domain photo of the Havana, Cuba skyline.



Suman and Gautam Ganapathy spent three weeks in India with their two adult children in December 2018-January 2019. This was heritage trip for their children who were visiting after twelve years. This trip truly highlighted the difference between travelling to places of personal significance and being a tourist, their children commented. Calcutta (now called Kolkata) and Darjeeling, of Darjeeling Tea fame, high up in the Himalayas, in Eastern and North Eastern India covered Suman's roots. Mysore and Coorg (now called Kodagu and coffee plantation land) in Southern India covered Gautam's roots.











MONTHLY PROGRAM SYNOPSIS: JANUARY 2019 SPEECH TREK

Joanne Rooney Speech Trek Chair



On January 22, 2019, Students from Ann Sobrato High School and Oakwood School participated in the AAUW Eleanor Stem Allen Memorial Speech Contest, sponsored by AAUW-Morgan Hill and the Morgan Hill Library.

This year's topic was, "How Do We Eliminate Violence Aimed at Our Schools?" Contestants were limited to 5-6 minutes to express their thoughts on the topic. Prizes were awarded to the

express their thoughts on the topic. Prizes were awarded to the top three contestants.

Cash prizes were given to the following students: Sophia Ruster, 1st place, Oakwood School, Diya Kandhra, 2nd place, Ann Sobrato High School, and Sabrina Bohnsack, 3rd place Ann Sobrato High School. The students were well-prepared, passionate and articulate, and spoke movingly on such issues as: improving mental health services, gun control and the prevention of bullying that have contributed to a rash of violence in our schools and community. A video of the first-place winner's speech will be

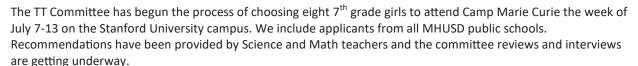
sent to AAUW-CA for a chance to compete in the state competition.

You can view Sophia's compelling first place speech here.

Many thanks to our AAUW-MH volunteers who helped with timing, video and judge the speeches.

TECH TREK

Joy Safakish Tech Trek Coordinator



tech

Each year the cost of running the camp goes up and Camp Director Pat Ivestor is looking for corporate donors; the 2019 focus is the robotics program. She is also interested to hear from branch members who can help to arrange field trips to local companies that are representative of STEM fields, for instance: Google, Facebook, Genetic, etc., or start-up companies run by women. Help is needed the week of camp, i.e., Field Trip Drivers, Camp Photographer (Sunday), Meal assistance (Saturday, Sunday), Mad City Money and more. A detailed list is found here. If you can help please reply to Pat Ivestor, (650) 400-8976. Send general inquires to Joy Safakish, Tech Trek Coordinator.



Clouds above El Toro. Photo by Jenny Redfern

KEEPING IN TOUCH WINNERS

Donna Dicker -Scholarships Chair

The Keeping in Touch, KIT, grant program continues to support the education goals of the branch's former scholarship winners who are still in college. Every January, the KIT program chair contacts women who have won one of our scholarships either as a high school senior, a woman re-entering college after a break, or someone pursuing a career in the healthcare field, to inform them of the grants that are available.



A committee made up of the scholarship chairs Jan Bergkamp, Donna Dicker, Kathy Hansell,

John Jenkins, Margaret McCann, Cinda Meister, Tammy Parker, and Katie Howard (chair) reviews the applications and selects the winners. The women receiving KIT grants for 2019 are: **Raya Kavosh**, a sophomore at UC San Diego majoring in Data and Cognitive Science, \$1,350; **Shelby McDonald**, a junior at California Baptist University majoring in Psychology, \$1,250; **Anita Alvarez**, a freshman at Cal State Monterey Bay, majoring in Psychology, \$1,250; **Arabella Williams**, a current sophomore at Cabrillo CC who will be transferring in the Fall, \$1,250 **Lifen Shi**, a junior at Poly SLO majoring in Biomedical Engineering, \$800; **Shannon Mortela**, Cal State Monterey Bay, majoring in Sociology with a graduation date of Fall, 2021, \$800; **Ariana Berumen**, a freshman at Berkeley, majoring in Sociology and Spanish, \$800; **Jordyne Atkins**, an Administration of Justice major who will be transferring to Cal State Los Angeles in the Fall of 2019, \$500; **Lindsay Baker**, an allied health major transferring to San Jose State in the Fall of 2019, \$500; and **Lyssa Fuentes**, a freshman at Cal State Monterey Bay, majoring in Humanities, \$500.

The funds for the KIT grants come from the Wildflower Run Fund.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Donna Dicker -Scholarships Chair

There are some changes in the local scholarship area. Tammy Parker and Joan Sullivan will be co-chairing the high school committee. Margaret McCann is stepping down to spend more time on developing her program for future women leaders (FWLA). The FWLA group will be holding their second annual conference on April 6th.

Jan Bergkamp will be replacing me as scholarship coordinator. Jan brings over thirteen years of scholarship experience at Live Oak High School to the position. If you are interested in serving on the scholarship committees contact Jan or myself.

On a recent visit to the library I had a chance to catchup with Michael Sue Brown Korbel a former AAUW member. Michael Sue and her mother were original founding members of the high school scholarship committee. Both women were active members in the formation of our branch.

One of our former re-entry scholarship women, Tamara Chukes, is now working in the insurance field. Tamara obtained her undergraduate degree while raising four children. She is continuing classes to pursue her master's degree. We hope Tamara will find time in her busy schedule to some day become a member of our branch.











Morgan Hill AAUW

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Visit us on <u>Facebook</u> or At http://www.aauwmh.org/

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June by the Morgan Hill branch of AAUW.

Co-Presidents: Peggy Martin & Maggie Leininger

VP Membership: Jenny Redfern Copy Editor: Suman Ganapathy Layout Editor: Christine Hopwood

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Chamber of Commerce

• Mar 2, Celebrate MH Awards Dinner, An Evening at the Circus, Guglielmo Winery, \$110

South Valley Symphony, Gavilan College Theater

Mar 9, NextGen2019, 7:30 pm, \$25

Community Solutions

Mar 15, Helping Hands & Healing Hearts Awards Luncheon, 11:15 am, MH CCC, \$75

South Bay Singers

• April 27, The Best So Far, 3 pm, Advent Lutheran Church, MH



www.aauwmh.org.
Send suggestions & updates
to Sandy Stoob.

