



MORGAN HILL  
(CA) BRANCH

# The Wildflower

## President's Message

**Marian Sacco—President**

[president@aauwmh.org](mailto:president@aauwmh.org)

### So Happy Together!

After being apart for over a year, our members enjoyed a fun, joyful party and lunch at Morgan Hill Cellars on June 6th.

Thank you, Hospitality Team, and AAUW member **Maryclaire** for making it possible!

During a quiet moment, we installed the current Officers and wished them a normal 2021-2022.



We met those new members who had joined during our time of isolation. And we applauded four members who were named 2021 Honorees. (p. 3)

Mostly we just had a fun time laughing and talking – so happy to be together.

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## Membership Update

**Kathy Hansell & Sherrie Wren, Membership Co-VPs**

(membership@aauwmmh.org)

Please welcome two new members to our branch. **Wan Qui Chen** has a BA in English from Hubei University in Wuhan, China. She also holds an MA in English from Pittsburg State University (KS) and an MS in Education from SUNY, Albany. She is employed at Ivy Climbing Education Services. She is interested in Arts Outings and Book Groups.

**Lydia Moret** earned an MS in Communication Science from Ghent University in Ghent, Belgium, and an MA in Journalism (Radio and TV) from Universiteit Brussel in Brussels, Belgium. She is a freelance editor – journalist and is interested in Book Groups and Wine and Whine.

The current branch membership is now 163!

## 2021 Wildflower Run/Wildflower Fund Final Report

**Carol O'Hare**

(donations@aauwmmh.org)

Again this year, the Covid-19 pandemic necessitated that the Wildflower Run be held virtually, but Run committee members were up to the challenge, creating new ways to reach runners, entice sponsors, and reward participants.

- According to **Lori Mains**, who handled registration (and packet pick-up) there were 335 participants of all ages who ran or walked—locally, nationally, even worldwide—including numerous branch members who signed up teams with friends and family.
- Run treasurer **Peggy Martin** reports that registration income was \$11,095.
- The Corporate Sponsor team, led by **Barbara Palmer** and **Amy Whelan**, brought in \$20,150. Amy also came up with a new perk for sponsors: the opportunity to create a promotional video for the WFR website.
- Members supported the annual Wildflower Fund Giving Campaign, coordinated by **Carol O'Hare**, donating total of \$18,299.
- After expenses, net amount available for allocation for all branch philanthropic activities is nearly \$45,000.

As in previous years, many members helped make this event successful, but special thanks go to: **Elizabeth Mandel**, marketing and promotion; **Suman Ganapathy**, prize organization and distribution; **Marian Sacco**, assisting wherever needed; as well as those mentioned above. We're especially grateful for some fresh perspective, such as new member **Wendy Miller's** social media expertise.

Now we look forward to the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Wildflower Run on March 27, 2022!



### WEEKLY EMAIL



Maximum 75 words  
Deadline Friday @ noon  
Send articles to  
Monica and Darcy  
[email@aauwmmh.org](mailto:email@aauwmmh.org)



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## 2021 AAUW Fund Honorees

### **Peggy Martin & Donna Dicker**

*The AAUW Honoree program is a wonderful way for our branch to recognize outstanding members. The criteria considered for our 2021 recipients were: promoting the mission of AAUW, length of time in the branch, serving as a board member, variety of the branch positions held, performing multiple jobs, behind-the-scenes worker, and community service that increases the visibility of AAUW.*

Our 2021 Honorees are:



### **Chris Hopwood**

Charming, witty, intelligent, and cosmopolitan this honoree brings many assets to our branch. For several years she has shared her talents as a writer and editor to create and publish our branch newsletter, The Wildflower. The newsletter always looks fresh and readable with interesting stories, photos, and information we need to know as members. She is active in the Afternoon Book group and writes amazing stories that she shares with the Friday Writers group.



### **Lori Mains**

According to Elizabeth Mandel this honoree "Stands out because of her willingness to dig in and figure stuff out." She used her technical skills to develop a registration spreadsheet for our first virtual Run in 2020 and online registration for the past two years, improving the process and laying the groundwork for future improvements. Those who worked with her on the runner packet pick-up this year were awed by her organizational skills. This honoree has supported the Scholarship committee for many years with her technical abilities, improving the website and the application process. She has posted information about scholarships on social media and headed up the Keeping in Touch committee.



### **Barbara Palmer**

A member of our branch since 1984, Barbara has held many leadership positions within our branch and with Tech Trek:

- President
- Tech Trek Camp Director
- Wildflower Run Director
- Wildflower Run Corporate Sponsor Chair
- New Member Mentor

She is very dedicated to our branch and devoted many hours to the Learning and Loving Center helping immigrant women, children, and their families.



### **Yvonne Randolph**

On becoming a member of our branch in 2017, Yvonne took on a leadership role joining Margie Snively as Co-VP of Programs in 2018. When Margie was killed in a tragic accident on Watsonville Road in November of 2018, our honoree carried the program torch in honor of Margie and her desire to put on powerful, meaningful programs.

During the Pandemic she stayed positive and met the challenge of learning to navigate the ups and downs of Zoom to provide interesting programs with panel discussions.

*Congratulations to Chris, Lori, Barbara, and Yvonne. Thank you for all your efforts in supporting AAUW Morgan Hill.*

## AAUW-MH Scholarships

**Donna Dicker**

*[scholarships@aauwmh.org](mailto:scholarships@aauwmh.org)*

### High School Scholarship Recipients

AAUWMH recently awarded scholarships to nine graduating seniors from Live Oak and Sobrato High Schools.



- **Janelle Laflin** (Live Oak) received the Margie Snively Leadership award of \$1,000 and will study Health & Human Services at the University of Southern California. Janelle was also chosen by her classmates to speak at their graduation as a Salutatorian.
- **Grace Sullivan** (Sobrato) received \$1000 to study Aerospace Engineering at UC Davis.
- **Cecilia Rojas** (Live Oak) received \$1000 to study Physiology at UC Davis.
- **Madison Langley** (Live Oak) was awarded \$750 to attend San Diego Mesa College.
- **Aliyah Habib** (Live Oak) received a \$500 scholarship to attend UC Santa Barbara.
- **Jenni Romero** (Sobrato) received a \$750 scholarship.
- **Daisy Villarreal** (Sobrato) received a \$500 scholarship to study Sociology at Gavilan College.
- **Kelsey Beard** (Sobrato) received a \$750 scholarship to study Psychology at Northern Arizona University.
- **Taylor Conely** (Sobrato) received a \$750 scholarship to study Psychology at CSU Fullerton.

The high school scholarship committee, co-chairs **Tammy Parker** and **Joan Sullivan**, and members **Darla Andressen** and **Holly Henry**, congratulated the winners and invited them to walk in the Morgan Hill 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade with our branch



### Re-Entry and Deferred Entry Scholarship Recipients

AAUW's Re-Entry and Deferred Entry Scholarships support women who have had to interrupt their educations and who are now ready to begin or continue their college education.

**Adriana Arroyo** is the first recipient of the new Deferred Entry Adult Education Scholarship. Adriana attended Gavilan College in 2011, obtained her GED at the Morgan Hill Community Adult School, and re-entered Gavilan this year to pursue an AS in Nursing. She received a \$1,000 award

**Ginny Hendersen** started college in the early 2000s. She then spent 15 years in nonprofit work while living in China and Thailand, helping women obtain job training and employment. After returning to Morgan Hill she earned an AA Degree in Business Administration from Gavilan College. She will transfer this fall to San Jose State University with a \$1,500 Re-Entry Scholarship in pursuit of a BS in Economics. She wants to work for the State Department, UN, or other international agency focused on economic relief or policy development.

**Maura Hernandez** first attended Gavilan College in 2008, then again in 2015 and 2018. In 2020, she transferred to Northwest University to work towards a BA degree in Psychology. Her career goal of working with youth and their families stems from her community work with churches and nonprofits. She received a \$1,500 Re-Entry Scholarship.

Scholarship Committee: **Donna Dicker, Patrice Lyn, Karen MacDonald, Vicky Reader**

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 Send suggestions  
 & updates to  
[Sandy Stooob](#)

## AAUW-MH Scholarships (cont.)



### Fritts Family STEM Scholarship

Susan Fritts established this annual \$1,000 scholarship for undergraduate students majoring in the STEM fields.

Biology major **Yessenia Reed** of Morgan Hill has been awarded the first Fritts Family STEM Scholarship. Yessenia will attend Howard University in Washington D.C. where she will minor in Chemistry as she studies to become a doctor. Yessenia volunteered at the Wildflower Run for several years when she was at Live Oak High School.

### Lauren Jenkins Scholarships for Health Care

Three Lauren Jenkins scholarships have been awarded to local women pursuing careers in health care.

**Sophia Carillo** received \$2000 and will use her scholarship to help her study nursing in the Milwaukee School of Engineering's Nursing program.

The second award of \$2,000 went to **Bree Casas** of Hollister. Bree is in the RN degree program at San Jose State University. She used her bi-lingual skills during the past year volunteering at vaccination clinics in her community.

The Scholarship Committee awarded a \$500 scholarship to **Tina Tran** of San Jose who is also in the RN degree program at San Jose State University. Tina and several other nursing students wrote a series of pamphlets for children about Covid-19 that were used by county agencies.

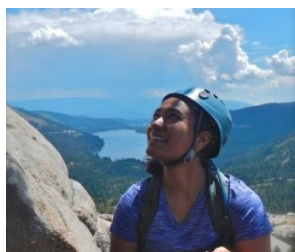
The Fritts Family STEM Scholarship and the Lauren Jenkins Health Care scholarship is awarded under the direction of **Mary Cox, Sharon Frentner, John Jenkins, Joan Stempel, Donna Dicker, Jennifer Tate.**



## Legal Advocacy Fund

### Janet Wright, LAF Chair

[laf@aauwmh.org](mailto:laf@aauwmh.org)



**In Devan-Song v. Oregon State University**, PhD candidate Anne Devan-Song suffered sexual and gender-based harassment by a fellow graduate student. Oregon State University (OSU) failed to resolve the complaints, but also discharged Devan-Song from her lab despite her excellent academic standing. She was suspended for speaking out about her experiences. Devan-Song filed a lawsuit against Oregon State University for violation of Title IX, The First Amendment, and Oregon law. AAUW advocated in support of Devan-Song—read about the result. [Devan-Song v. Oregon State University – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

Read about AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund's other current cases [Current Cases – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

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## Friendship & Travel

**Jill Paveza, Friendship Chair**  
(friendship@aauwmh.org)

Now that Covid-19 cases are decreasing and California, and the world, are slowly opening again, what are your travel plans, or simply, what's next for you? Email me highlights of your summer activities along with photos for inclusion in the September-October issue of The Wildflower.

We're sure that Nancy Altman will be following her own excellent advice to "go outside and play!" as she celebrates her retirement from the Morgan Hill Unified School District after 23 years of service. During that time she was the Assistant Principal at Britton Middle School for the last four years, a Special Education Teacher for 17 years, and served as Curriculum Associate, Basketball Coach, Teacher on Special Assignment, Intern Mentor, and Morgan Hill Federation of Teachers (MHFT) Representative.



## Spotlight on Interest Groups: Social Justice/Diversity



**Patrice Lyn, Chair**  
publicity@aauwmh.org

The Social Justice and Diversity group was created by a diverse group of branch members who met in June 2021. A wide-ranging discussion covered topics of concern affecting the Morgan Hill community including voting rights, climate change, race, and homelessness. How can we be more effective at the local level in overcoming cultural, racial, and social barriers? National AAUW focuses on equity, diversity and inclusion. For more information and resources see the AAUW Advocacy Toolkit. — [Advocacy Toolkit – AAUW: Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

**The next meeting will be held on July 11 at 2 PM** and will focus on identifying specific, attainable objectives for the group. If you are interested in attending or learning more about the group's plans, please contact Patrice Lyn (publicity@aauwmh.org) or Joanne Rife (joannerife@me.com).

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## AAUW & Morgan Hill Historical Society Celebrate

**Margo Hinnenkamp**

### AAUW Morgan Hill & the Morgan Hill Historical Society Partnership celebrate 19 years together



Morgan Hill House



Morgan Hill Museum

In 2002, our branch formed a partnership with the MH Historical Society that has been a great success for both organizations. Our board agreed that in exchange for providing at least two docents monthly for the Morgan Hill House and the Museum we would be able to hold branch events at the MH House at no charge to our branch.

In the past 19 years, we have had dozens of our members serve as docents, board members and volunteers for countless events at the MHHS. There are currently three branch members serving on the historical society board of directors, as well as a number who previously served as board members. Our committed volunteers continue to make a difference for the MHHS and the BOD is immensely grateful for our hard work and dedication to their mission of preserving and sharing the history of our city.

In honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage, our branch donated two benches that are prominently displayed on the grounds of Villa Mira Monte.

If you would like to volunteer with the MH Historical Society, please contact **Margo Hinnenkamp** at [margohin@morganhillhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:margohin@morganhillhistoricalsociety.com)

### Morgan Hill Historical Society Celebrates 50 Years

The Morgan Hill Historical Society celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September 2021 at Villa Mira Monte. On Saturday, September 11, there will be special events and exhibits on the property, along with tours of the Morgan Hill House and History Museum. The following day, the MHHS documentary film, "History Makers," will have its premiere showing at the MH Community Playhouse.

MHHS was founded in July 1971 to preserve local history at a time when the city was rapidly growing and changing. In 1983 the 1911 Acton farmhouse became the MH History Museum on Main St. (It was moved to its current location at VMM in 2005.) The Villa Mira Monte property was purchased from the City in 1993 and restoration began. Five years later, the Morgan Hill House and VMM property were opened to the public.

To learn more about the MHHS and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary events, go to [www.morganhillhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.morganhillhistoricalsociety.org).



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### The Wildflower, Volume XXXIX, Issue 6

The Wildflower is published digitally from September to June by the Morgan Hill branch of AAUW  
President: Marian Sacco  
President-Elect: Suman Ganapathy  
VP Membership: Kathy Hansell & Sherrie Wren  
Editors: Kim Gardner, Christine Hopwood