

By Peggy Martin Volunteer of the Year

Thank you. This is a very exciting afternoon. It is a pleasure to be honored and awarded Volunteer of Year and to be sharing this celebration with the other honorees.

Thanks to all of you for attending. Thank you, Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce and Guglielmo Winery.



I start with acknowledging all volunteers and non-profit organizations in Morgan Hill and surrounding communities. So many dedicated people that do so much to create positive impacts and outcomes. And a big acknowledgement and thanks to the generosity of all donors.

My video clip mentioned that I volunteer with several non-profit organizations. These organizations will be the focus of my remarks along with one other special organization.

AAUW Morgan Hill – I have been a Board Member for 12 years. I have met a lot of impactful women and gained many friendships. Last week was our 39th annual Wildflower Run. It was great having a live run again with over 950 runners participating. The proceeds from our run go to scholarships, leadership development programs and community action grants. I am passionate about AAUW because of our mission, “AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.”

Morgan Hill Community Foundation – I have been a Board Member for 7 years. The MHCF connects donors and local needs for a lasting impact on the quality of life in our community. We encourage a “Give Where You Live” philosophy.

The Sue’s Story Project - I have been an Advisory Group Member of The Sue’s Story Project, since its inception in 2017. I am Board CFO of the Susan and Charles Berghoff Foundation, which was co-founded by the Berghoffs and Robin Shepherd in 2021 to provide education, caregiver resources, and funding for research until a cure is found for Lewy body dementia. This organization touches my heart. Robin Shepherd and Sue Berghoff are members of AAUW. Robin and I were fellow classmates in LMH’s 2014 Class. Best Class Ever!

I have, been Treasurer for the South Valley Science and Engineering Initiative since 2017, which was founded by Susan Hines to promote youth engagement in Science, Technology Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) through both community outreach and by providing a safe inclusive competition for 5th-8th grade students in Morgan Hill, Gilroy and San Martin. It is very rewarding watching young students that are engaged in STEAM. Susan Hines is a member of AAUW.

There is another organization in our community that I consider to be a touchstone, The Edward Boss Prado Foundation, Cecelia and Gary Ponzini. I hold you very dear in my heart. Cecelia, too, is a member of AAUW and was a fellow classmate in LMH’s 2014 Class.

Again, I thank all the wonderful volunteers and nonprofit organizations in our community and congratulate all the other honorees. I thank my husband, Craig, for all his support.