the TIDINGS

News of AAUW-Half Moon Bay

Volume 54, Issue 6

February 2021

Annual Speech Trek Competition



Monday, Feb. 22, 2021 • 7 to 8:30 p.m. Via Zoom

AAUW California has come up with an intriguing question for this year's Speech Trek: "Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls?" Four local high school students will give us their thoughts and positions on this challenging topic. The presenters from Half Moon Bay High School include two juniors and one sophomore. Pescadero High School is represented by one sophomore.

The first-place winner will receive a cash prize. Their winning speech will be recorded and digitally submitted for the state competition in April. Our three remaining participants each will

also receive a monetary award.

While the judges are meeting and deciding, you will have the opportunity to ask questions of the students. We look forward to a lively and enlightening discussion.

A special thank you to **Paulette Eisen**, who has spent many hours with these students, helping them put their speeches together and practicing how to use Zoom comfortably and to their best advantage. Please join us on Feb. 22 for one of our most popular programs. The Zoom link is in the box to the right.

Mary Vargas and Allene Zanger, Speech Trek Co-Chairs

Join Us

VP Programs **Peggy Rozhon** invites you to a Zoom meeting. Please RSVP to her at **prozhon@gmail.com** if you will attend.

Topic: AAUW-HMB Speech Trek contest and monthly meeting

When: Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.
Join Zoom meeting at https://
us02web.zoom.us/j/85887605152?
pwd=azMzdHl1bTRWSVRGVW
1MMGFPVysyZz09

Meeting ID: 858 8760 5152

Passcode: 669505 One tap mobile

+16699009128,,85887605152#,,,,*6

69505# US (San Jose)



American Association of University Women Half Moon Bay Branch P.O. 1414 El Granada, CA 94018 halfmoonbay-ca.aauw.net



Email blasts must be approved by the President. Email preferred.

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Articles should be pasted into the body of the email. Attach any photos as jpg or png files.

Sara R. Hayden, Editor
Betty Lee-Kendall,
E-mailed Circulation
Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Neighborhood Groups

South Half Moon Bay, Central Half Moon Bay, North Half Moon Bay, El Granada/Miramar and Moss Beach/Montara. Look for the distribution in your directory.

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

AAUW Half Moon Bay Branch is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

President's Message Happy 2021!

If you plan to get vaccinated, I hope you can get an appointment. It would be helpful if they brought the vaccines to the Coastside. It is not easy for some of us to get over the hill.

After you get both doses, remember that you are encouraged to continue wearing a mask, washing your hands, and staying six feet away from others. Maybe later this year we will be able to have in-person meetings at the library. I am looking forward to seeing you all face-to-face.

This month is the Speech Trek contest, which will be on Zoom.

Read the article by the Speech Trek committee on page 1 to learn when it will be and the exciting topic.

It is the time of year to set up a nomination committee to search for members who would like to be involved with the board to make goals and help our branch to grow and reach out. The nomination committee will meet on Zoom. If you are interested in joining the nominating committee, please contact me at 650-200-7920 or 19suzanne47@gmail.com.

Enjoy the new year filled with hope.

Suzanne Mau, President

Chamber Education Committee Update

The Half Moon Bay Chamber of Commerce Education Committee held a Zoom meeting on Jan. 4. There was no presentation, just groups checking in.

The San Mateo Credit Union is accepting applications for their scholarships. The deadline to apply

is March 19; no SAT or ACT score is required. Check their **website** for details.

Teacher Appreciation Day is tentatively scheduled for March 11.

Mary Alice Pearce,

Representative

The Census and What It Means for California's Future

During the 1980s, California's population grew by 6 million. In the 1990s, the population growth slowed down markedly. Now, at the end of the 21st century's second decade, California's births are declining and its deaths are increasing. We lose more people to other states than we gain and foreign immigration is scant.

Because of this decline, California stands to lose one or two congressional seats.

What does this population

decline mean? The elderly make up a rapidly growing group, which means a smaller number of potential workers, a declining number of children, and a drop in student enrollments. It means fewer customers for retail and less need for housing, fewer cars on the road, and other economic impacts. Something to ponder: Why are so many people leaving?

Mary Vargas, Public Policy Chair

Bylaws: An Important Question and Vote for 2021

Between April 7 at 9 a.m. and May 17 at 2 p.m., all AAUW members will have the opportunity to vote on an important bylaws amendment that will eliminate the degree requirement membership. Click here to learn more about the rationale for the proposed by laws change brought by Board the AAUW Directors and the AAUW Governance Committee.

Plan to attend the AAUW

California virtual annual meeting on April 17 to hear AAUW Board Chair **Julia Brown** as she brings us all the news from AAUW National and the latest about the proposed bylaws change. Registration is required. Click **here** to register.

Save March 24 for Lobby Day (via Zoom). The registration deadline has been extended to Feb. 28. Click here to sign up.

All members who sign up for

Lobby Day *must register for and attend* the training webinar on March 22 at 7 p.m. Training will cover the bills we want members to discuss as well as the logistics for the day. Click **here** to register for the webinar.

Dianne Owens, President, AAUW California, and Kathleen Harper, Director, and Sue Miller, Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs

Remembering Marie LaPrade

Marie LaPrade, a longtime member of our AAUW branch, passed away in mid-January after a long illness.

Marie will be remembered fondly by AAUW members as a very kind, quiet and engaged past Membership V.P. She stepped out of her comfort zone to accept this post soon after she joined AAUW 20 years ago. We will remember her for her courage. Marie will be remembered by the Evening Book Group as an avid reader, astute participant, and leader of the group for several

years. She will be remembered for her gentle presence.

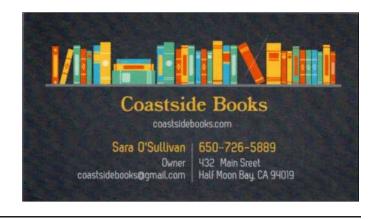
Marie also was a talented photographer. Her artwork was often displayed at Coastal Arts League Gallery in Half Moon Bay and elsewhere on the Peninsula. Her artistic closeup photos were a source of mystery and amusement, stemming from her careful eye and sense of humor.

Mostly, Marie will be remembered as a loving friend. She will be greatly missed. There will be a memorial service post-COVID.



Marie La Prade





Dates to Remember

Monday, Feb. 22

General Meeting and Speech Trek Competition 7 p.m.

Monday, March 15
General Meeting
7 p.m.

Monday, March 22
AAUW California
Lobby Day Training

Wednesday, March 24
AAUW California
Lobby Day

Wednesday, April 7
AAUW National Election
Voting Begins

Friday, April 16
AAUW California Election
Voting Begins

Saturday, April 17
AAUW California
Annual Meeting

Please check calendars on the AAUW-HMB, AAUW-CA and AAUW websites for updates, additional events and announcements.

Tech Trek Update: Local, State, National

Tech Trek, the weeklong, hands-on STEM camp for girls entering eighth grade, was founded in 1998 with the first camp held at Stanford University. Over the past 23 years it has grown in participation and the number of campus locations. It was eventually embraced at the national level with 10 states now offering Tech Trek camps through sister branches around the country.

In 2020, with the onset of the pandemic, AAUW was forced to cancel in-person camps; however AAUW-CA piloted a virtual STEM program featuring robotics with about 40 students to see if it would be possible to run an online version of Tech Trek. This summer, an online experience will be offered again, during three different weeks. accommodating several hundred girls, to keep the momentum until we can return to college campuses again. Through all these challenges, AAUW has inspired thousands of girls, including more than 100 Coastside girls sponsored by our branch over the past two decades.

In January, the AAUW-CA Board of Directors formed a "Tech Trek of the Future" task force to set a course for the years ahead and create a strategic plan. The board will include AAUW-CA leaders and AAUW national stakeholders including AAUW-CA state Tech Trek co-coordinators, past camp directors and treasurers, Tech Trek founder Marie

Wolbach (Palo Alto branch), and the AAUW National STEM coordinator. Eventually, local branch Tech Trek coordinators will have a chance to weigh in by way of focus groups.

Although our branch will forgo an online selection and application process for seventh graders this year, we will reach out to local past Tech Trek alumnae who might be interested in serving as virtual camp coaches this summer. We hope that some may enjoy serving as mentors and would appreciate the experience. *Branch members are also needed as online coaches*. Please contact branch chair **Julie Gerth** if you are interested.

The statewide virtual Tech Trek is also looking for 2021 workshop ideas that could be run as stand-alone sessions in the afternoons during Zoom camp. (Note: Robotics is already planned as the only "core class" each morning.) Workshop proposals are being assessed now. They must be:

- Proven in a virtual environment
- 90 minutes start to finish
- 75% hands-on
- Suitable for 11- to 14-year-olds
- Enjoyable learning
- Related to one of the STEM disciplines

A workshop proposal form is available **here**.

Please call if you would like to volunteer or have other questions about Tech Trek.

Julie Gerth, Tech Trek Chair

January 6 Shocks Nation

On Wednesday, Jan. 6, our nation watched in horror as our democracy came under attack in an unlawful and violent invasion of the U.S. Capitol. Because AAUW's national office is in Washington, D.C., the personal safety of our staff and their families was at risk as armed insurgents took to the streets calling for violence toward our elected officials and the overthrow of a free and fair election.

The mob used hateful language and displayed symbols of white supremacy as they forced their way into the hallowed halls of Congress. We mourn the loss of the five individuals killed in the attack. including Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, and the many others hurt.

As scary and shocking as this was, it was sadly not surprising given the incendiary speech the President gave to the rioters prior to the attack and the divisive tone he has set for years. From calling the racist protestors in Charlottesville "very fine people" to telling the Proud Boys to "stand by" in a presidential debate, former President Trump gave us many warning signs.



AAUW is proud to join in solidarity with leading gender justice organizations equity a **statement** demanding that Trump and his enablers be held accountable for their actions. We hope this unified message will inspire those in power to action. If you feel comfortable contacting your elected officials, we encourage you to do so.

And, as we collectively work to understand the roots of our nation's divisions, we ask you to actively engage in efforts to defeat white supremacy: Please review our Diversity, new **Equity** and **Inclusion Toolkit** and review the recording of our town webinar from Jan. 19 with AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown and the Racial and Social Justice Working

As AAUW members, we embrace our vision of equity for all, and we hold our values close to our hearts and minds. Thank you to everyone who has reached out to ensure your AAUW staff are safe in this uncertain time.

In solidarity, Kimberly Churches, AAUW Chief Executive Officer







Big Lift Collaborative

Education is the number one priority. Giving little ones the extra boost they may need to thrive in school is the goal of the Big Lift Collaborative. It was reassuring to hear some good news at the most recent meeting:

- Cabrillo Education Foundation had a successful year-end fundraiser.
- Cabrillo Unified School District has qualified for the \$1 million grant to focus on pre-school education, including the Big Lift summer

program.

- The Boys and Girls Club, which offers quiet learning spaces to middle school students, also met its fundraising goal.
- The Half Moon Bay Library is offering multiple online opportunities for all age groups.
- The State of California has approved \$2 billion for safe reopening of schools.
- The Big Lift summer program is being planned.

COVID-19 is changing the face of education. However, it is the teachers, aides, behind-the-scenes staff, and administrators who are struggling to bring educational opportunities to our kids. As your representative from AAUW to the Big Lift Collaborative, I salute the members for their hard work and dedication.

Sue Hatfield, AAUW Representative

More than \$800,000 in Scholarships Awarded

Seventy-four branches California awarded than more \$800,000 in scholarship funds to 442 scholars during the 2019-20 academic year. These figures include 47 scholars who attended the May 2019 National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) conference in-person the University of Maryland. Currently, 18 branches of those contacted do not award college scholarships. The good news is all branches raise funds for Tech Trekkers and even better news is that many Tech Trekkers are also honored to receive college scholarships from branches to pursue their STEM dreams.

San Jose is proud to award \$100,000 annually and Healdsburg is delighted to report that \$81,000 in scholarship awards support many reentry as well as returning students. Laguna Beach's scholarship appeal raised \$27,000 during this past pandemic year.

Now is the time for your branch members to raise college scholarship funds with the help of your community. Terrific fundraising ideas collected during the personal phone calls to 119 branch presidents will be distributed to branch presidents in early February.

Donna Lilly, National College University Relations Committee Chair

Zoomtique Custom Cake

Not only was November's Zoomtique unique and fun, there was a diverse selection of items up for bid. I won the bidding on a custom cake created by our very talented **Vivian Costello**. I just have to share the final creation with you. My challenging instructions to Vivian were to combine my daughter's 50th birthday in late December with her profession of being a K-1 teacher and

her love of growing vegetables. COVID curtailed the desired celebration, so this cake became a highlight.

Barbara Von Glahn

Editor's note: If you won an item at Zoomtique and have an interesting story to share about how it was used, please email it to aauw.hmb.newsletter@gmail.com.





When Will the Gender Pay Gap Be Closed?

How long will it take? What can we do to make it happen sooner rather than later? These questions that AAUW has been grappling with for decades. As we note Equal Pay Day on March 24 the symbolic day marking how far into the next year a woman must work to earn what a man was paid the previous year - we are making progress. EPD falls one week earlier than last year, when it was on March 31. There is hope that we can make more progress in decreasing the gender pay gap in 2021. This new administration is committed to social justice and leveling the growing disparity between the haves and have-nots. We also now have women in the highest echelons of national leadership and as we all know, when women are in charge, things get done!

According to the 2020 update to AAUW's The Simple Truth, it will take white women until the year 2069 to achieve parity with men based on the projected earnings ratio compiled between 1988-2019. For women of color the numbers are even worse. Black women will have to wait until 2369 - 350 years – as their earnings ratio has only advanced a mere 7% from 1988 to 2019. And Latinas find themselves in the worst scenario as their earnings ratio has only increased 4% from 51% to 55% during this period of time, projecting their year of parity to 2451! (AAUW, The Simple Truth 2020 update.)

The reasons for these disparities in the gender wage gap are known – and understanding the cause of the problem is the first step to meeting it head on. Members are urged to read the summary of *The Simple Truth* **update**, which lays out the problem, its causes, and solutions.

AAUW is leading the charge to effectuate change and you are part of the solution with the work your branches undertake on behalf of women and girls. The more we educate ourselves and others about the scope of this gender wage gap with programs like Start Smart, Work Smart, and NCCWSL, the more we chip away at the disparity.

What is your branch doing to make a difference in the Gender Pay Gap? Let us know what creative ideas you have come up with to spread the word in these days of social distancing. We'll share them on the web (send yours to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org).

Ginny Hatfield, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

We Have A Slate - Now What?

AAUW California has a full slate of nominees. Please click **here** to visit the state nominations and elections page and see bios of the candidates: **Sandi Gabe**, President-Elect; **Roli Wendorf**, CFO; and Directors **Carol Holzgrafe** and **Judy Cavin Brown**.

We will also vote on the state's public policy priorities. The voting period is April 16 to May 7.

Nominations are open until March 16. If you are thinking about joining the state board but are not quite ready to commit, please contact the Nominations and Election Committee so they can give you personal assistance.

National elections will also take place this year April 7 to May 17. Elimination of the degree requirement for membership will be up for a vote.

We have seen what happens when we work together and vote. Please vote in both elections and please consider running for office – whether it is national, state, interbranch council, or your local branch. We need you!

Janice Lee, Nominations & Elections Chair



Girls in Nepal celebrate as they receive their Days for Girls kits. Photo by Sarah Webb, Days for Girls.

Days for Girls Project – Take 2

The year 2020 was a rollercoaster ride of highs and lows for the Days for Girls project. We committed in January to make menstrual hygiene

kits for the Days for Girls project, destination Rwanda. Our lofty goal was to make 100+ kits in time to present at the state convention to be held in Burlingame.

Our enthusiasm was high; volunteers

bought soap, underwear, and washcloths. We rummaged through our stashes of fabric to construct shields, transport, and drawstring bags; after depleting our personal stores determined shoppers bought cotton, PVL and flannel in stores and online. We met twice a week to cut and sew the kit items. These sessions were one of the highs for 2020!

As COVID-19 spread globally, the hopes of taking these kits to state

convention and then onto Rwanda were crushed; a low point for this project. We continued to construct kits, often leaving components at

> each other's doorstep to spread out the tasks. Kits were stored at **Vivian Costello**'s home until there was another opportunity to distribute the completed kits.

In August, a devastating explosion in Beirut killed 178,

injured 6,500, and destroyed the homes of more than 300,000 people. The Days for Girls International requested help from all DFG branches as all their supplies were destroyed in the explosion. We quickly assembled the kits and sent them to Utah, where flights were departing with emergency supplies and food to Lebanon. We were grateful the kits could be used to help young girls in need.

With COVID-19 continuing to affect us all globally, our band of sewers, cutters, and shoppers decided to continue making kits while we wait for vaccines and a return to normal activities. The kits would be designated for Rwanda when international travel resumes. We are seeking volunteers again to help with constructing the kits. We have many opportunities for you to get involved:

- If you have a sewing machine or serger: construct shields, liners, and bags.

If you are interested in DFG – Take 2, please contact **Karen Hume** or **Vivian Costello**.

AAUW California Webinars

AAUW California will host several webinars that you may find interesting. First is "She Who Thrives Survives," where you can learn what successful branches are doing to survive and thrive. Click here to register for this webinar on Feb. 24.

Another webinar coming up is "Build Community and Campus Relationships through Work Smart." In this webinar, you will join a panel of experts to learn more about negotiating your salary and benefits when asking for equal pay, a raise, or a new position. Click here to register for this March 8 webinar.

If you have any issues finding information on the website or registering for a webinar, please contact the web team at webteam@aauw-ca.org.

Tracey Clark, Director,
Communications Committee Chair

A New Splash of Color

It has arrived! The new interactive Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Toolkit (DEI) is now available **here** with splendid and inviting color and design.

Will branches use the great new resources? That, of course, is up to each branch. If we all begin using the DEI Toolkit, we can make a difference in our membership and leadership.

Key elements of the new DEI Toolkit include:

∞Our commitment

«Getting started with difficult conversations

∞Key terms and concepts

∞Dimensions of diversity and identity

∞What's next?

Of special interest are these examples:

∞Equity vs. equality

∞Intersectionality

∞Unconscious

bias

Explore the DEI
Toolkit. Now is the
time to try out and use
some of the materials in
the DEI Toolkit and to

provide feedback to

diversity@aauw-ca.org.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are priorities for all of the AAUW California committees.

Elaine Johnson, Director

There's Still Time ...

Being designated as a Named Gift Honoree is a very special honor in AAUW. The award is reserved for members who have made extraordinary gifts of time and hard work to the branch and AAUW. And the award signifies that branch members contributed a total of at least \$750 to AAUW Funds, in the name of each honoree.

Named Gift Honoree

the **AAUW** Every year California Fund Committee honors members who have done outstanding work in supporting our programs and goals. A Named Gift is a special way to honor an individual, a group, organization for extraordinary service to AAUW.

Branch Named Gift Honoree

Branches can make one nomination for each \$750 contributed by the branch or branch members on or before Dec. 31.

State Named Gift Honoree

This award is given to an AAUW member who has done outstanding work to promote the programs and goals of the AAUW Fund and/or AAUW California. Please submit only one nomination per branch.

Click here to find the forms and submission instructions. All nominations must be submitted by Feb. 15.

Judy Cavin Brown, Director, AAUW Fund Committee Chair

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Presidents' Day	Great Decisions 5:30 p.m.				
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	General Meeting 7 p.m.	Evening Book Group 7 p.m.	Janus noon			
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
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Interest Groups Zooming Along

Evening Book Group: Janie Keeler will moderate the Feb. 23 discussion of *The Weight of a Piano* by Chris Cander. The Zoom meeting will start at 7 p.m. If you would like to join the discussion or the group, email our leader Nancy Evans at egnancy@comcast.net. Maybe the March 30 book, *Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History* by Keith O'Brien, will interest you.

Or one of these: April 27 – The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson; May 25 – The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich; June 29 – The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett; or Aug. 31 – A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende. All of these books are available in paperback and through the library. We will have a planning meeting on July 27 to select our 2021-22 slate of books.

100

Gourmet: The day will come when we can indulge our impeccable taste and awesome skills, but until then let's remember past memorable meals. It could be

one from your childhood or a birthday treat or what you *always* had for Saturday supper or your favorite food. Share treasured recipes – your own or your grandmother's or your Aunt Phoebe's – for potluck dinners. Think of these as memory jewels winking through the aspic.

**

Writing **Group:** Is anyone interested in reviving this fabulous group? Repeated urging by any number of "experts" to keep a journal during this trying/ weird/confusing time should be heeded. It's simple. The tools are simple. Paper, pen or pencil or, if you must, computer. This lends itself to Zooming and an easy transition to face-to-face meetings. If you have any thoughts about this, Murdock Katie ktgm4@aol.com.

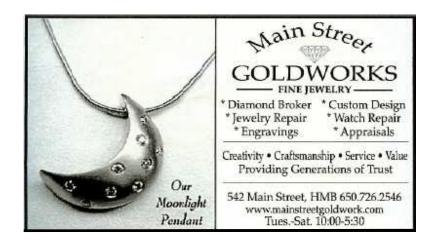
Great Decisions: Recently, federal agencies and private companies were affected by a serious massive Russian hack. On Feb. 16 at 5:30 p.m. we will meet via Zoom to discuss this area with

our topic "America's uneven approach to AI (artificial intelligence) and its consequences." Yes, we solve the nation's problems; if they only listened...

Our January topic was our relationship with the Philippines. We were treated by a guest speaker who grew up in the Philippines and currently has family there — an insider view.

There are links to the topic so you don't need to have the book. Visit www.fpa.org. to learn more. If you're not already on the group list, email Barbara Von Glahn and she will send you the details. We always have interesting discussions and opinions!

Janus: Janus will continue Zoom meetings as long as members are interested. Our next meeting is Feb. 24 at noon. If you would like to join us, please email Mary Alice Pearce at maalice_hmb@comcast.net and she will send the link to you.



Membership Renewal on the Horizon

California AAUW members pay dues at three levels: national, state, and branch. All dues are typically paid in a single payment.

Branch dues and fees are set by the individual branches, are not uniform, and are in addition to AAUW National and AAUW California dues.

Starting March 16, it will be time to renew your AAUW membership for fiscal year 2021-22. Any new members joining after March 15 will get the remainder of this year free along with next year's membership.

National dues will be \$62 for the

coming year, of which \$59 is taxdeductible.

State Membership Dues

State dues remain the same at \$20, but are not tax-deductible because AAUW California is a 501 (c)(4) entity. Here is a breakdown of who does and does not pay state dues:

- 1. 50-year honorary members are exempt from paying state dues, but paid life members must pay full state dues (\$20).
- 2. State dues are waived for past state presidents.
- 3. State dues are waived for

- representatives from college/university partner institutions.
- 4. Students from AAUW college/university partner institutions do not pay state dues, but other students pay half (\$10).

For more complete information on dues categories, check the website here.

Keep reading future *Tidings* for information on Half Moon Bay branch dues.

Roli Wendorf, Chief Financial Officer, Finance Committee Chair



Stamp

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Half Moon Bay Branch PO Box 1414 El Granada, CA 94018