

# the TIDINGS

News of AAUW-Half Moon Bay

Volume 53, Issue 6

February 2020

## 1920 to 2020 – From Suffragists to the ERA



Speech Trek Contestants and Special Guest Brigid O'Farrell  
Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020 • 1 to 3 p.m.  
Community Room B, Half Moon Bay Library

“Are men and women truly equal today, or are the suffragists of 1920 still suffering in 2020?”

Our event begins with high school students from Half Moon Bay and Pescadero presenting their arguments on this year's AAUW topic. In its fourth year, Speech Trek empowers students to voice their thoughts and debate their findings in our branch contest. The winner will then compete for the \$1,500 top prize at the AAUW CA State Convention.

Adding to this question of

equality, **Brigid O'Farrell's** talk is titled, “Women's Suffrage and the Equal Rights Amendment: One Hundred Years and Counting!”

Well-known as an author of works on labor history, public policy and women's equality in the workplace, Brigid has enlightened us with her past presentation on **Eleanor Roosevelt**.

Bring all your friends who get riled up about equality. We should be able to pack the room!

*Peggy Rozhon, Program Vice President*

### Meeting Reminders

*Hospitality provided by North Half Moon Bay members.*

*Please bring a reusable cup to this and all future events.*

*Next meeting: March 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. **Lisa Petrides, ISKME CEO and founder,** will speak about OEM/Open Education Resources.*



**American Association  
of University Women  
Half Moon Bay Branch**

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Sara R. Hayden, Editor

Betty Lee-Kendall,

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**Neighborhood Groups**

South Half Moon Bay, Central Half  
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distribution in your directory.

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## ***President's Message***

### **Here Come College Graduates**

A new year and I'm  
thinking about my relatives'  
college graduations.

I enjoy recalling the girls  
(and boys) we support with  
various activities through our  
branch: Speech Trek in  
February, Tech Trek Camp at  
Stanford University in July  
and our local STEM Camp.  
And let's not forget the stellar  
young women who received  
scholarships entering their  
junior year of college. They  
exude hope, optimism and a  
representation of  
accomplished people with a  
great future ahead.

An AAUW study found  
women make up 56% of  
today's college population.  
However, they hold 65% of  
the outstanding student loan  
debt. Women with bachelor's  
degrees owe an average of  
\$2,700 more than men. The  
main reasons appear to be that  
they select more expensive

colleges that offer  
convenience and flexibility so  
that they can meet their family  
and work obligations.

AAUW has concentrated  
on programs like ERA, pay  
equity and Work Smart to  
increase paychecks.  
However, paying off college  
debt while trying to build a  
career and family erodes the  
pay earned, with the added  
insult of fewer retirement  
funds.

Should we discourage  
college and post-secondary  
education? Of course not!  
Educated women continually  
make influential inroads into  
corporations and politics.

I am looking forward to my  
two family college  
graduations with pride in their  
accomplishments and a  
positive hope for their  
financial future.

*Barbara Von Glahn,  
President*

### ***Last Chance:***

### **Nominate Your Named Gift Honorees Today**

Please email your nominations for Named Gift Honorees to **Carol Joyce** at [carollanphearjoyce@gmail.com](mailto:carollanphearjoyce@gmail.com) by Feb. 5. Be sure to include the reasons for your nomination so the committee can get to work making the challenging decisions of selecting the 2020 Honorees.

*Carol Joyce, AAUW Funds Vice President*

# Tech Trek Dorm Moms Needed

Do you think you would be a good dorm mom? Would you enjoy living with energetic, highly motivated future scientists on the Stanford campus?

We need two new dorm moms and one or two alternates.

Dorm moms do not need to have a strong STEM background, although you must have an enthusiasm for the topics. Last year, it was fun to meet

up with past AAUW-HMB president and member **Sue Murphy**, now in Monterey, serving as a dorm mom for her first time. If you have a willing AAUW friend in our district, perhaps you could sign up together!

Dorm moms must be in good enough health to manage a lot of walking and some stairs, and need to have the patience, good sense and

friendly personality necessary to help 10 to 12 middle-school girls get the most out of the week at camp.

Our week of camp this year is July 12-18. Please email **Julie Gerth** at [joollee@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:joollee@stanfordalumni.org) as soon as possible so that she can connect you with our camp director, **Cynthia Miller**, from the Los Gatos-Saratoga branch.

*Julie Gerth, Tech Trek*

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## Bay Area Mystery Writer to Appear in HMB

Bay Area mystery writer **Janet Dawson** will speak at the Half Moon Bay Library on Saturday, March 7, at 2 p.m. Her talk will be followed by a reception and book signing.

AAUW HMB, the Half Moon Bay Library and Friends of the library are sponsoring the afternoon.

Dawson's sleuths are female in both of her series. The Zephyr Series, set in the 1950s on trains called the Silver Streak, ran between the Bay Area and Chicago. If you ever rode these trains you will

recognize all of the settings. The Jeri



*Photo by Charles Lucke*

Howard Series is set, for the most

part, in Oakland and surrounding cities and towns. Besides being excellent mysteries they are a wonderful evocation of the era and the Bay Area.

Volunteers are needed to help with the AAUW table, reception, and audio equipment. If you can help, please contact **Katie Murdock** at [ktgm4@aol.com](mailto:ktgm4@aol.com) or 640-729-3000.

Hope to see you there.  
*Katie Murdock*



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## Interest Group Spotlight

# Evening Book Group: Eclectic Books, Eclectic Group



*Left to right: Linda Lowens, Emily Berk, Katie Murdock, Elizabeth Thompson, Madeline McReynolds.*



*Left to right: Janie Keeler, Lee Ellis, Marilyn Garrison, Antoinette Wrubel, Helen Paul, June Baxter, Jean Slinger ( back of her head).*

The Evening Book Group is as eclectic as the books they choose. Fiction and non-fiction are included and, no matter the genre or author, the discussions are always lively and informative.

Each month's facilitator is the person who has championed the book for that night. That person has always done their homework about the author and themes in the book. These often lead to peripheral subjects that stimulate further insights into reading other books. It is impressive the wide-ranging interests and knowledge the group exhibits through the books and commentaries.

We're not all bookish – the group enjoys snacks and twice-a-year delicious potlucks. Once a year, books are suggested for the next year's reading and then voted on by email.

Group leader **Nancy Evans** keeps everyone informed and **Madeline McReynolds** graciously lends her home for the monthly discussions. Newcomers are welcome. There's always room for more.

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## Chamber of Commerce Education Committee

From the Jan. 7 meeting:

The San Mateo Credit Union donated \$1,000 toward dictionaries for third graders.

SMCU has also donated funds to build six mini-libraries to be placed around Moonridge and Main Street Park. The Friends of the Library will supply books for them. There was talk of asking the lumber company to donate the supplies to build more

and the high school shop class to make them. The credit union is also taking applications for two \$5,000 college scholarships.

CUSD Superintendent Dr. Sean McPhetridge gave a presentation on the recent budget cuts. Details are available on the CUSD website.

The recent news from the Middle East has brought out a new scam targeting high school seniors for

their personal information, offering college enrollment to avoid a fictional draft.

If you receive flyers or ads printed in red and black, these colors are used to instill fear and usually contain false information.

The Coastal Arts League soon will offer art classes for kids.

*Mary Alice Pearce, AAUW Representative*

# AAUW HMB Speech Trek Contest in Full Swing

Students from Half Moon Bay High School and Pescadero High School are preparing to participate in the fourth annual speech contest sponsored by the Half Moon Bay branch of AAUW. The competition will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, in the Community Room at the Half Moon Bay Library. The speech contest topic is "Are men and women truly equal today, or are the suffragists of 1920 still suffering in 2020?"

Among other societal matters, students will reflect on the following

admonishment of **Abigail Adams**, who urged her husband to "remember the ladies" when drafting our country's founding documents:

"...I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember, all Men would be tyrants if they could. If perticular care and attention is not paid to the Laidies, we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by

any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation."

The students' coaches are AAUW members **Paulette Eisen** and **Antoinette Wrubel**, and Pescadero High School teacher **Jennifer Freeman**.

The three top speakers from local contests held throughout California will be invited to compete for a \$1,500 prize at the AAUW California State Convention on April 18 in San Francisco.

*Allene Zanger and Mary Vargas, Speech Trek Co-Chairs*

## 2019 Tech Trekkers Investigate Science Questions

It was science fair time once again at Cunha Intermediate School and our 2019 Tech Trekkers, now eighth-graders, entered projects on a wide range of topics.

In the physical science category, **Ellie P.**, who aspires to be an astronaut, looked at rocket design with her project, "It's Just Rocket Science." She asked, "What rocket will fly the best without common parts?" She compared two model rockets — one missing fins at the base vs. one

without a nose cone. She was awarded a second-place ribbon.

- "Got Gluten?" was the title of **Deia K.**'s project. She looked at the performance of four different types of flour in how cookies rise and spread while baking and she received a third-place ribbon.

- **Samara B.** entered her project "Cleaning the Creeks" in the environmental science category.

- In the behavioral science category, **Catalina J.** looked at the effectiveness of mindfulness

exercises as a tool in reducing stress levels in her "Mindful Minds" experiment. She was awarded an honorable mention ribbon.

- Also in behavioral science, **Aliya W.** was interested in how we perceive color in her work called "Seeing Colors." She received a third-place ribbon. She tested 31 people and concluded that blue text was the easiest to comprehend when reading.

*Julie Gerth, Tech Trek*

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## Convention Volunteers Needed

As we enter 2020 and a new decade, we are looking forward to a busy time for AAUW California. The April convention is shaping up to be an exciting event and we hope you all plan to attend.

The convention is a huge undertaking and we need volunteers to help in various capacities. What a great way to meet fellow members and network! Please consider how you might be of assistance. More details about volunteering can be found [here](#).

See you in April, when I look forward to sharing the experience of another excellent AAUW California convention.

*Sharyn Siebert, Director, Branch Support Committee Chair, AAUW CA*

## More Good News on the STEM Front

You might have noticed in your most recent AAUW *Mission and Action* newsletter that a bipartisan effort, spearheaded by Sen. **Jacky Rosen** (D-NV), was able to pass the Building Blocks of STEM Act. It was signed into law on Dec. 24, 2019.

It will help expand educational opportunities in STEM topics (science, technology, engineering and math) for women, girls and students of color. The new law instructs the National Science Foundation to seek out and encourage young women and

girls to be part of STEM programs, and to award research grants that promote understanding of ways to increase participation in STEM for girls in kindergarten through elementary school.

AAUW joined with other organizations such as Girl Scouts of the USA, Save the Children Action Network, Girls Inc., Society of Women Engineers and National Organization for Women to endorse the bill and get it through both houses of Congress.

*Julie Gerth, Tech Trek*

## Theater Bash! Save the Date: March 26!

**Our fourth annual Theater Bash is Thursday, March 26! Your \$40 ticket includes the pre-theater gala at 6 p.m. with a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, wine, and music. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m.**

**We have the opportunity to attend the dress rehearsal of Coastal Rep's production of the Tony Award winning, *Into the Woods*, by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine. The musical follows the story of a childless baker and his wife and their quest to begin a family. This Brothers Grimm-inspired journey includes their interactions with a witch and other storybook characters.**

**Watch your email for more information regarding ticket sales. We will have a fabulous time while supporting our branch's local scholarships and projects! Please contact Nina Nelson at 650-560-9025 or [nencgn@yahoo.com](mailto:nencgn@yahoo.com) with any questions or to volunteer.**



# The Big Lift

Big Lift Collaborative has some big news! Six Little Libraries are being built by Seacrest students and Big Lift will place them in neighborhoods, including Moonridge and Main Street Housing, where children will most benefit from easy access to books. The Big Lift summer program is being



expanded to include rising kindergarteners through rising third graders. The Collaborative will coordinate training for preschool and kindergarten teachers to implement standardized phonics education to enhance literacy for all readers. AAUW can be proud to be represented in this collaborative. Sue Hatfield, AAUW Representative

## How Women Fare in Public Policy

### Student Debt

Women hold almost two-thirds of the national student debt, which stands at \$145 trillion. The gender gap of student debt has almost doubled in the past four years. Women take about two years longer to pay off their debt; because of this, they often put off saving for retirement, buying a home or starting a business.

### Sexual Harassment

Based on a report from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, sexual harassment in the workplace can take a toll on women's physical and mental health and reduce their lifetime earnings. Most victims are between the ages of 25 and 44.

### Pay Gap

Women collect 80% of what men

do in Social Security benefits. The pension income of women is 78% of men's. The overall retirement income of women is 70% of men's. These figures show us how important it is for women to fight for equal pay from the time they first start working. Lower pay will affect them all their lives, especially in retirement, which many young people don't think about when they first start a job.

*Mary Vargas, Public Policy Chair*

## History Tidbit

**1984:** Our branch held a musical fashion show at Montara Gardens featuring clothing from the 1930s, 40s and 50s. Models included **Jan Grierson, Joyce Anzelc, Terry Fischer** and **Barbara Von Glahn**.

## Save the Date

**February 22, 2020**  
General Meeting

**March 16, 2020**  
General Meeting

**April 17-19, 2020**  
AAUW CA Convention  
Millbrae

**April 20, 2020**  
General Meeting

**May 18, 2020**  
General Meeting

**June 13, 2020**  
Recognition Luncheon

See more at [AAUW-HMB](#),  
[AAUW-CA](#) and [AAUW](#)  
websites for updates, additional  
events and announcements.

## Members Wanted for: Pumpkin Festival Committee

One of our most visible and fun projects is participating in the Pumpkin Festival, which this year will be Oct. 17 - 18.

Our branch needs members to volunteer to be part of the committee that makes this event one of our best fundraisers.

Please say "yes" and notify **Barbara Von Glahn** at [barbara\\_hmb@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara_hmb@yahoo.com).

# February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Walk & Talk 10 a.m.				Out & About 10 a.m.	STEM 9:30 a.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Walk & Talk 10 a.m.	Great Decisions 7:30 p.m.		Great Books 2 p.m.	Out to Breakfast 8:30 a.m.	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<b>Presidents' Day</b> Walk & Talk 10 a.m.		Janus noon		Bridge 8:30 a.m.	Branch Meeting 1 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Walk & Talk 10 a.m.	Evening Book Group 7 p.m.				



# Join an Interest Group, Make New Friends

**Bridge:** We'll play on Friday, Feb. 21, at Zaballa House, 324 Main St., from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Remember to bring your lunch and \$2 for drinks. Email **Sheila Cresson** at [sheilacresson@gmail.com](mailto:sheilacresson@gmail.com) with any questions.



**Evening Book Group:** We'll meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at **Madeline McReynolds'** home, 261 Medio Ave., HMB, to discuss *The Feather Thief*. Future books to be discussed are (all dates are Tuesdays): March 31, *Killers of the Flower Moon*; April 28, *Unsheltered*; May 26, *Clock Dance*; June 30, *The Most Fun We Ever Had*.



**Gourmet:** Our next gathering will be in March, when **Carol Mickelson** will host.



**Great Books:** We will discuss *The Heart of a Woman* by Maya Angelou on Thursday, Feb. 13, at the home of **Janet Orumchian** from 2 to 4 p.m. Please RSVP to Janet if you plan to attend.



**Great Decisions:** Study books pre-ordered from the Foreign Policy Association are being distributed. We will meet Tuesday, Feb. 11, at **Barbara Von Glahn's** house at 7:30 p.m. The first topic is "Climate Change and the Global Order."



**Janus:** Our February luncheon will be at the home of **Ruth Rafello**. We will meet at noon on Wednesday, Feb. 19. RSVP yes or no to Ruth at [rrafello@coastside.net](mailto:rrafello@coastside.net). Please bring a potluck dish to serve eight to 10 and \$3 for the hostess. If you would like to be on the group list, please e-mail **Mary Alice Pearce** at [maalice\\_hmb@comcast.net](mailto:maalice_hmb@comcast.net).



**Out & About:** On Friday, Feb. 7, we'll visit the Oakland Museum of California. Adult admission is \$16; senior admission is \$11. There is an extra \$5 fee for *No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man*. We'll meet at the New Leaf parking lot near the bus stop at 10 a.m. RSVP to **Sara Hayden** at [hayden.sara@gmail.com](mailto:hayden.sara@gmail.com) by

Wednesday, Feb. 5, and indicate if you can drive that day.




**Out to Breakfast:** On Friday, Feb. 14, at 8:30 a.m., we'll meet for breakfast at Caffé Mezzaluna (the café, not the restaurant) in Princeton. Please join us! There is no need to RSVP – just come along for breakfast and fellowship. All are welcome!



**STEM:** Saturday, Feb. 8, we will visit the Tech Museum in San Jose, primarily for the exhibit *Body Worlds Decoded*. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the New Leaf parking lot on the side of Highway 92. If we're not on an outing, future meetings will be on Monday evenings. Topics and activities to be determined.



**Walk & Talk:** Join us every Monday morning at 10 a.m. for a walk in good company, with fresh air and beautiful views. Send your email address to **Marilyn Garrison** at [marilyngarr@hotmail.com](mailto:marilyngarr@hotmail.com) and she will send you our meeting location on Monday.



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# AAUW CA Convention Comes to Millbrae

What can *you* do at the 2020 convention?

- You will be able to do a hands-on project and help the women and girls in Rwanda.
- You will be taking 1,000 steps to bring equality to women and girls.
- You will celebrate the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote.
- You will interact with inspiring, like-minded people.
- You will learn from workshops, plenaries, films and speakers.

• You will hear firsthand the thought-provoking words of AAUW President **Kim Churches**.

What else can you do at the convention? Volunteer!

We need volunteers for meal check-in, workshops, plenaries, etc.

Please consider volunteering five hours of your time. Besides the good feeling, the reward is a refund of \$75 off your package registration (see convention registration for specifics). Register to volunteer [here](#).

Deadline reminders:

Hotel registration deadline is March 20.

Convention registration deadline is April 10.

Volunteer deadline is April 10, but spots are filling up quickly.

See all the convention details [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you in Millbrae, April 17-19!

*Convention Team*



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