

the TIDINGS

Our Coastside Gives Fundraiser is May 7.
See [page 4](#) to learn how to help
AAUW-HMB win \$1,000!



News of AAUW-Half Moon Bay

Volume 53, Issue 9

May 2020

Breaking News: AAUW-HMB Has Zoomed!



Screen shot courtesy of Mary Alice Pearce

Monday, May 18, 2020 • 6:30 p.m. General Meeting via Zoom

It happened and it was great! Our branch held its first online meeting on 4/20/2020 with 35 members and guests in attendance. We all stayed comfortable in our own homes and in our own squares. A thousand and one thank yous to our speaker **Lisa Petrides**, CEO and founder of ISKME. She offered the use of her nonprofit Zoom account, did a dry run with several members, and guided us into the 21st century of social distancing communication.

And now, online meeting No. 2. Please join us on Monday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m., for sentimental tales and genetic sleuthing: “What’s in

Your Attic? Ancestors and Antiques.” **Chris Green**, professional genealogist and our treasurer-elect, will give us a wee bit of info on finding your roots. **Jeri Dansky**, professional organizer and past donator of marvelous items to our White Elephant Rummage Sale, will give us tips on what to keep and what to pass along. Jeri has asked for questions from the group prior to the talk. So, members, what’s on your minds about “stuff”?

As a society we are taking this one day at a time. This May meeting will be online. As in April, you will

receive an email invitation to the meeting. When you reply yes, you will then be sent an email with a link to the meeting. It is an easy process, but we will be working internally with some members who were unable to access the site. Keep positive thoughts.

The June luncheon will be a “box” luncheon – bad joke – with all of us eating in our homes and Zoom boxes. More on that later. For now, remember to bring your own snacks and a reusable coffee or tea cup to the May meeting.

Peggy Rozhon, Program Vice President



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

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by the President. Email preferred.

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Sara R. Hayden, Editor

Betty Lee-Kendall,

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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
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President's Message

A Busy-Quiet Time – An Oxymoron?

I'm getting adjusted to my new normal. I know my neighbors' habits, the sounds of my house, and that refrigerator door opens way too much. I'm tired of the view from my windows.

Someone suggested getting in and out of the grocery store as quickly as you can. I don't know how your experience has been, but because of missing items, I need to rework my list and negotiate back through the store.

I overcame my anxiety and learned how to host and participate in video conferencing.

My granddaughter taught me how to FaceTime so we can see each other virtually. I do miss hugging.

In a virtual way, AAUW is still active. At the beginning of COVID-19, National AAUW reached out to us through virtual conferencing to assure us they were sheltering-in-place, but still continuing their critical work. The revised website was launched on April 6. Check out the new look at aauw.org.

AAUW California replaced

the delayed California convention with a virtual meeting on Saturday, April 18.

Our branch had a virtual board meeting April 6 with another scheduled May 4. It was good to "see" them. Your vote for new officers was recorded on our first-ever email branch election or phone call. We canceled the March general meeting, which became a virtual meeting on April 20. There appear to be more to come.

Remember, please keep up with credible information on the pandemic to stay safe. I am particularly concerned about social isolation and individual needs. Be mindful of other members and reach out to them.

Mary Sheridan has expressed a willingness to coordinate requests for assistance. She prefers contact through email or her cell phone. You'll find her information in the Half Moon Bay Branch Membership Directory.

Stay well, smile, and laugh!

*Barbara Von Glahn,
President*

It's Membership Renewal Time!

It's that time of year when we all need to renew our AAUW membership for the upcoming membership year. Total dues are \$110 (\$59 national, \$20 state and \$31 branch). Of this, \$107 is tax-deductible because of our IRS 501 (c)(3) tax exempt status (\$56 national, \$20 state and \$31 branch).

This year we are using the national membership payment program (MPP) to process dues renewals. Around May 15, you will get an email from the national office directing you to a secure payment site to pay your dues online with a credit card. The subject line of the email will say AAUW Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2021 and will come from memberinfo@aauw.org. Simply add your credit card information and the page populates your name and address for you. If there are any changes needed in your personal information, make the changes there and hit "Submit." You will receive a receipt for your payment, but please note it says only \$56 of your payment is tax deductible. The correct amount is \$107.

For those who do not wish to pay

with a credit card, there will be instructions how to pay with a check. Please use whichever payment method is most convenient for you.

There are a few items to note:

1. The online form will ask if you want to make an additional donation to AAUW. This donation goes to national AAUW funds. If you want to support our branch projects, mail a separate check to P.O. Box 1414, El Granada, CA 94018. Please note the program to which you want to donate on the memo line.

2. If you made changes to your personal information online, please be sure to communicate that information to **Mary Sheridan** at mary.b.sheridan@gmail.com.

3. If you need to request dues assistance this year, please send an email to Mary Sheridan with your specific amount of support needed. Do not use the online system to renew your dues.

Thank you for continuing to support this dynamic, powerful, local and national organization by renewing your membership for the upcoming year.

Mary Sheridan, Membership Treasurer

AAUW-HMB 2020-21 Officers

With the close of voting on April 21, the Nominations & Elections Committee is pleased to announce AAUW-HMB's newly elected leaders for the 2020-21 term:

Board President: **Suzanne Mau**

Program Vice President: **Peggy**

Rozhon

Membership Vice President:

Kathleen Freitas

AAUW Funds Vice President:

Carol Joyce

Recording Secretary: **Linda**

Lopez

Treasurer: **Chris Green**

The Nominating Committee thanks our members for the outstanding turnout in our first online election. We also want to thank our current president, **Barbara Von Glahn**, for her help in making sure our online election complied with our Bylaws.

We look forward to working with our new Board to advance our mission in these challenging times.

*Jan Grierson, Lee Ellis, Carol Joyce and Katie Murdock,
Nominating Committee Members*

Submitted by Carol L. Joyce



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Help AAUW-Half Moon Bay Make This Our Most Successful Coastside Gives!

Whether it is through our current programs or new ones as we strive to stay safe during the pandemic, AAUW-Half Moon Bay will continue our mission of empowering women and girls by advancing gender equity.

In the face of COVID-19, our branch spring fundraisers have been canceled. Donating to Coastside Gives is the safest and best way for us to raise the money we need to continue our mission.

Your donation will:

- Be matched by a record \$4,000 matching fund created by AAUW-Half Moon Bay members.
- Help us qualify for prizes given by the sponsor of Coastside Gives, Mavericks Community Foundation and their donors.

Here are the ways you can donate to help us reach our \$10,000 goal and qualify for prizes:

Give online or by check

- Donate online by visiting our branch's page on the Coastside Gives [website](http://www.coastsidegives.org/aauwhmb).
- Or copy and paste the following into your browser:
www.coastsidegives.org/aauwhmb.
- Donate by writing a check or donating through your

donor-advised fund or IRA. Send your check to AAUW-HMB, P.O. Box 1414, El Granada, CA 94018. In the memo line, write Coastside Gives 2020.

On May 7, time your donation to help us win \$1,000. Our designated Power Hour is 8 a.m. Donate between 8 and 8:59 a.m. on Thursday, May 7.

Use the link to donate between 8 and 8:59 a.m. to help us win \$1,000. We will win if we are the nonprofit with the most individual donations – not dollars – during this hour. The minimum donation is \$10. To be clear, the prize is awarded based on the *number of people* who donate, *not the size* of the donation. Here is the catch: The system tracks individual donations so you can't give more than once on the same credit card. We encourage you to ask family and friends to give during this Power Hour.

Thank you to our branch members who made the \$4,000 matching grant possible and members who have already donated online or by mail.

I know you will join them in helping us reach our goal. If you have any questions, email Carol Joyce at carollanphearjoyce@gmail.com.

Carol Joyce, AAUW Vice President Funds/Coastside Gives Lead

Equal Pay or (Better than) Equal Pay

The U.S. Women's National Team (soccer), winners of the past two Olympic Games and the Women's World Cup, are demanding pay equal to the men, who earn far more even though they have not won anything.

The women were told that they could not pull in the audience that the men can, even though they have played to full stadiums. They have been told that they are not as strong and fast as the men or as good players. This was due to go to arbitration, but is now on hold because the 2020 Summer Olympics have been

postponed until 2021.

On another note, because women make on average less than men throughout their working lives, it affects their retirement earnings.

According to a recent AARP study, two-thirds of Americans with Alzheimer's disease are women and more than 60% of Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers are women. The economic burden of dementia and Alzheimer's on women in the U.S. is estimated to be \$91.1 billion a year.

Mary Vargas, Public Policy Chair



A Special Conversation with Diane Rehm

On April 14, AAUW CEO **Kim Churches** held an exclusive interview with legendary NPR radio host **Diane Rehm** as part of AAUW's "2020 Vision" Convening webinar series. Rehm spoke about remaining resilient in the face of challenges and shared insights from her most recent book, *When My Time Comes*, a thoughtful and compassionate exploration of the **Death with Dignity** movement.

Read an **article** about their conversation or listen to the **full interview**.

Chamber of Commerce Education Committee

The Education Committee met via Zoom on April 14.

The library has virtual programs available such as open science labs and storytime. They also have people making masks. Check their website.

Kings Mountain is doing virtual online teaching.

Sean McPhetridge, EdD, reported on situations at CUSD. The district is still working with **Jackie Speier**, Mid-Peninsula and others to connect students for virtual teaching because of spotty free wifi on the

coast. Graduation will probably be held remotely. There will be no prom. No decision has been made yet about grades, but credit/no credit is a possibility. Some colleges such as UC Santa Cruz have stated that this will not be held against students.

San Mateo Credit Union has temporarily closed its HMB branch. There are several programs available to assist people financially during this time.

Mary Alice Pearce, Representative



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Photo by Vivian Costello

HMB Branch Makes 101 Kits for Days for Girls

Days for Girls International, a nonprofit founded in 2008 by **Celeste Mergens**, has helped more than 1 million girls stay in school in more than 125 countries. DfG prepares and distributes sustainable menstrual health solutions to girls who would otherwise miss school during their monthly periods.

Barbara Von Glahn introduced the idea for AAUW-HMB to join in the kit making at our January general meeting. A sample kit was acquired from **Karen Wilkes** and a small group met at Barbara's house to plan the project. Karen brought the DfG idea to her branch, AAUW Citrus Heights American River, in September 2018. She was planning to lead AAUW volunteers in assembling Days for Girls hygiene kits at the AAUW California convention in April.

Vivian Costello and **Karen**

Hume agreed to co-chair and their first meeting was Feb. 1. They picked up the concept again at our February

meeting, including sharing the specific items in one completed kit. They were so well-received that some members donated cash on the spot to purchase supplies necessary to make kits.

All of the components come in a brightly colored drawstring bag that

doubles as a backpack. Each kit is hand-sewn and includes two pairs of underwear, two shields, eight liners, soap and washcloth, plus instructions and a transport bag, which acts as a dirty laundry hamper as well as a washing device.

Beyond the kit, DfG always includes health education during its distributions. It's crucial that girls learn about their menstrual cycle,

good washing practices, health, safety, and why being a woman is worth celebrating.

In early February, Vivian and Karen began hosting regular meetings at home and the HMB Library's makerspace. The group met until March 11 and when the library closed for shelter-in-place the group continued working on the kits from home.

Committee members were **Nancy Evans, Angie Fazio, Anne Grauzlis, Jan Forslund, Kathleen Freitas, Linda Frisch, Patty Landry, Mary Alice Pearce, Gladys Picht, Peggy Rozhon, Sheila Spieller, Barbara Steinberg, Barbara Von Glahn, Sandi Winter, Katherine Winterhuddle** and **Rosy Yeh**.

The group's goal was to create 101 kits, which they met. They will be included in the next DfG expedition to Rwanda, which is on hold until the COVID-19 pandemic has abated.

The group is indebted to library staff **Annie Malley, Francisco Vargas** and **Sarah Carlson**. Having access to the makerspace and its cutting tables, sewing machines and sewing notions was invaluable.

Vivian and Karen would like to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who worked on cutting, sewing, serging, assembling and purchasing.

Vivian Costello and Karen Hume



Kathleen Freitas and Gladys Picht working in Half Moon Bay Library's makerspace. Photo by Karen Hume.

Some Interest Groups Make Do with Zoom

Evening Books: Reading is the perfect shelter-in-place activity. Now is the time to support our local bookstores. Order up. Our group was scheduled to read and talk about David Grann's *Killers of the Flower Moon*, *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver, Anne Tyler's *Clock Dance* and *The Most Fun We Ever Had* by Claire Lombardo. Surely one of those titles sounds intriguing. For a total escape, try *The Crossing Places*, first in the Dr. Ruth Galloway mysteries, a fascinating series about a forensic archaeologist by Elly Griffiths.



Gourmet: While the wildly popular Gourmet diners and/or brunchers are sheltering in place, recipes are abundant in books and online and home cooking is *très chic*. Now's the time to sharpen your

culinary skills so you can be ready when we can once again see all those fascinating people face-to-face.



Great Books: In view of library closures and social distancing, the Thursday, May 14, meeting for Great Books will probably be postponed. The book selected for May is *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison.



Janus: We held our first Zoom meeting on Wednesday, April 22. We had six members tune in. There was no potluck, but still much laughter. We are planning to try it again on May 27. If you would like an invitation, please email **Mary Alice Pearce** at maalice_hmb@comcast.net.



Out & About: We've been exploring the world from our sofas. There are lots of virtual museum tours online. Viking Cruises has launched its own streaming TV channel, which includes original programming. Check it out at viking.tv.



Walking: We all miss walking together! Since walking is good for our physical, mental and spiritual selves, I hope each of us is walking as much as is safe by ourselves or with the people we are sheltered with. Jim and I have done a lot of exploring on foot of Moss Beach, Montara and the adjacent open lands. I hope you can do something similar in the area where you live! See you again in the future, walking and talking on Monday mornings together!

STEM Camp Update

We are being cautiously optimistic that we will be able to hold STEM Camp July 13-17. The plan this year is to have the five-day camp in the HMB Library. For us to do this, everything needs to be back to "normal" and the library completely operational.

The Tech Trek students who were not able to attend camp this year will be the first invited to attend STEM Camp. Of course, we will not proceed if there is any danger to students or adults.

There is also the option of postponing it until the end of July, if

it looks like things will be OK by then.


We are putting the beginning plans in place, as far as we can go at this point. We will continue to inform you of our progress.

Mary Vargas, *STEM Camp Coordinator*



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**Lee Ellis, Jan Grierson, Carol Joyce, Katie Murdock (Carolyn Seaton*)
Stellar Branch Officer Nominating Committee**

Appointed in January, the nominating committee worked long and hard through April filling officer positions with qualified members. Normally we have the election in March, but there were still two empty positions. With the delay because of COVID-19, they continued to reach out. They never gave up. They tried to be creative with the problems. In the end, all positions were filled. I reached out to them to assist me with the email voting that took place in April (not in their job description). Once

again, they responded and were willing to help.

So many times, we don't know what is going on behind the scenes. It looks seamless in the end. If I could see them in person, I would give them all big hugs along with my thanks for going above and beyond.

Barbara Von Glahn, President
** Carolyn Seaton was appointed to the committee, but had a family emergency the day of the committee's first meeting and had to resign.*

History Tidbit

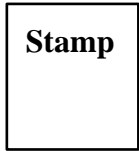
Living history this month because of COVID-19!

This was the first time in the 53-year history of our branch that we voted for branch officers by email (and phone). It was also the branch's first general monthly meeting to be held by video.

Barbara Von Glahn, President



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Half Moon Bay Branch
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