

## WILDFLOWER RUN 2019



Runners photo link [HERE](#)

Volunteers photos link: [HERE](#)

[AAUW Calendar](#)



## AAUW ANNUAL INSTALLATION SPRING BRUNCH



Our annual Spring Brunch is on Sunday, **May 5, from 11 AM-2 PM** at Morgan Hill Cellars, 1645 San Pedro Avenue in Morgan Hill.

Our new branch officers for 2019-2020 will be installed, and we will be announcing our 2019 AAUW Honorees too. It will also be our opportunity to meet and congratulate our 2019 scholarship winners.

RSVP to [Karen MacDonald](#), by May 1 indicating whether you will bring an appetizer, a main dish, salad or dessert. Guests are welcome. Please let Karen know if you are bringing one.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2019-2020 ELECTED OFFICERS



President  
Maggie Leininger



President Elect  
Marian Sacco



CFO/Treasurer  
Tessa Albin



Secretary  
Coleen Colwell



VP Membership  
Kathy Hansell



VP Programs  
Yvonne Randolph



VP AAUW Funds  
Janet Wright

## CO-PRESIDENTS' CORNER

### Maggie Leininger



What a fantastic time of year for AAUW! This year's Wildflower Run was a great success. Thank you to all who gave generously of their time and money to make this event possible. We could not do it without your help. These funds go towards helping so many deserving people – make sure to read the article about San Martin Gwinn's Community Action Grant in this newsletter. This is what we are all about – helping deserving students and women realize their potential.

I wanted to take a moment to say a big thank you to Peggy Martin whose term as co-president will be ending at the end of June. Peggy, I have had such a wonderful time sharing the President's role with you this year. I have learned so much from you and will miss having you there as my co-president. Our branch is so fortunate to have such a wise and kind person as a member. I look forward to your continued active participation on the board.

Make sure to get involved with the AAUW 4th of July float. Look for info in your weekly email blasts. Have a safe and relaxing summer!

### Peggy Martin



Serving as President in 2017-2018 and co-President in 2018-2019 has been most rewarding for me. My passion around AAUW's mission "To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy" was enhanced as I learned more and participated in the many programs that AAUW Morgan Hill offers: Tech Trek, GEMS, Speech Trek, Future Women Leaders Conference and our January 2019 Leadership Conference for our members. Our branch achieves a lot!

Our Wildflower Run this year was beyond compare. Having 900 runners was fantastic. Ann Marie Cody pushed her triplets in the 10K, earned the Guinness World Record and was published in Runner's World. An achievement for her and a wonderful acknowledgement and advertisement about our Wild Flower Run! A big thanks to all the volunteers that made our run so successful. I am so impressed with the dedication and passion of our committee members and all branch members in ensuring a successful run year after year, and enabling AAUW Morgan Hill to do so much for our community.

The Future Women Leaders Conference was successful and professionally run thanks to Margaret McCann's leadership and the dedicated and passionate student team. With all of their efforts, creative ideas and enthusiasm, all the participants in the conference completed the day with leadership tips & tools needed for the future.

I have been honored to serve as President/Co-President of AAUW Morgan Hill. This year has been particularly enjoyable in sharing the experiences of being President with Maggie Leininger. Soon our installation of officers will take place and the torch will be handed off to Maggie. My thanks and best wishes are with her as she embarks on her solo year of being President.

In reflecting, starting July 1, 2019, will be the first time in nine years that I will not hold an elected position on the AAUW Morgan Hill Board. However, I will still be part of the Board, serving as the Leadership Development Chair. I look forward to continue being an active participant of the AAUW Morgan Hill Board.

My gratitude and thanks to all of you.



## WILDFLOWER RUN

### **Pat Toombs, outgoing Wild Flower Run Co-Director**

Our 2019 Wildflower Run was one for the record books!

The weather was perfect – no rain, not too hot, not too cold. We had 900 runners, and records in all the areas that count: record sponsor donations, record membership donations, and a Guinness World Record – Ann Marie Cody set a record for a 10K female runner with a triple stroller, at 47 minutes and 10 seconds, breaking the old record of 49 minutes and 17 seconds. She also garnered over \$1100 for AAUW donated in her name. This should be a banner year for allocations, possibly the most money we have ever had to put towards our AAUW missions, scholarships and community grants.

Thanks once more to all our volunteers who worked to make this run a reality. We are one of the largest runs put on solely by a volunteer organization, and we could not do it without all your help. It is the one area where we ask all members to participate, and you came through with flying colors! Next year my Co-Director, Deb Buchanan, will take over as Director of the Wildflower Run for 2020. I know we could not be in better hands. Please join me in supporting Deb, and thanks in advance for your help next year for our 37<sup>th</sup> annual Wildflower Run!



There were many articles in the press about this year's Wildflower Run.

- Morgan Hill Life & Gilroy Life: [Wildflower Run spreads seeds of empowerment](#)
- South Valley Magazine: [Rule of Three](#)
- KTVU Fox 2: [Guinness World Records set by two stroller-pushing Bay Area Runners](#)
- Morgan Hill Times: [World Record Stroll](#) & [Guest View: Breaking Records to Empower Women](#)
- Runner's World: [California Mom Pushes Triplets in Stroller to New 10K Record](#)

## WILDFLOWER RUN SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS

### **Barbara Palmer, Corporate Sponsor Team Chair**



Many thanks to the 10 members of the 2019 Corporate Sponsor Team for bringing in an all-time high total of \$33,003. ((View the Sponsors Thank You flyer [HERE](#).) This is \$6,000 more than last year's total. Sponsor total will be combined with total member donations and run registration revenue to be allocated for scholarships, Tech Trek camperships, Community Action Grants and AAUW national programs.

The sponsor team was extraordinary in their effort and perseverance this year. Three additional members canvassed the local restaurant and winery community and collected \$1,700 in gift cards that were given out as runner prizes - this is a feature unique to our run!

Our local businesses have again been very supportive of AAUW MH. Remember to thank them when you have the opportunity.

Left: Rich Constantine, Mayor of Morgan Hill with Barbara Palmer.



### **Carol O'Hare, Member Donations, Chair**

The 2019 annual Wildflower Fund Giving Campaign set a record high of \$14,000! Our thanks to the 61% of members who made a donation. (View the Member Thank You flyer [HERE](#).) These funds will be combined with Wildflower Run corporate sponsor contributions and proceeds from the Run to support all of the branch's philanthropic activities: local scholarships and grants, Tech Trek camperships, and national AAUW programs.

Although the campaign has ended, it is never too late to make your donation! You may either write a check (payable to ISPF AAUW) and send it in the self-addressed envelope that was included in a request letter mailed in March, or use your credit card and PayPal. (Go to [www.aauwmh.org](http://www.aauwmh.org) and click on the Donate button.)

Thank you for your support of education and equity for women and girls.



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Jenny Redfern, Membership VP

Our Membership Renewal season is in full swing. Already 59 of our 173 members have renewed through 6/30/2020. Most of you are using the easy-peasy online link sent by National. When you are ready to renew, look for the email from National in your inbox or junk email, and click on the link provided. No login or password is required. If you can't find the email from National, send a request to [membership@aauwmh.org](mailto:membership@aauwmh.org) and your invoice will be re-sent.



Please welcome these new members to our Branch:

**Heather Orosco** is a newly elected member of the MHUSD School Board and works at MORE consulting. She has a MEd from Grand Canyon University, and hopes to create and support educational opportunities for young women.

**Mona Chattha, DDS**, has opened a dentistry practice in MH and wants to get to know the community. She is looking for opportunities to volunteer, and is interest in our programs, July 4th parade, scholarships, Taste of MH, and GEMS.

### Shape the Future!

Know someone who wants to join us? If they join at one of our monthly programs, they receive a special discount on their first annual membership payment, \$74.50 instead of the full \$104.

## THANK YOU FROM AN AAUW-MH COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT RECIPIENT

### Susan Rife, Chair, Community Action Grants

*Every year, grants for up to \$1000 each are provided to local non-profit organizations for a specific program or expense that is in alignment with AAUW's mission.*

Here is a 'Thank you' note and picture from one of our AAUWMH Community Action Grant recipients from 2018-2019: \$500 was awarded to St. Martin Gwinn School to support Middle School Athletics.



Hi Susan,

Thank you to AAUW for providing money to help fund our athletes' uniforms at San Martin Gwinn Environmental Science Academy. Our middle school students participate in athletic events throughout the year in the San Benito Athletic League. Our students participate in Volleyball, Basketball, Flag Football and Soccer. We were in desperate need for uniforms for these teams. AAUW to the rescue. This generously donated money purchased both shorts and jerseys for our athletes. We are now fully outfitted and ready to compete and show our SMG panther pride.

Below is a picture of our Boys Basketball team and our Logo:



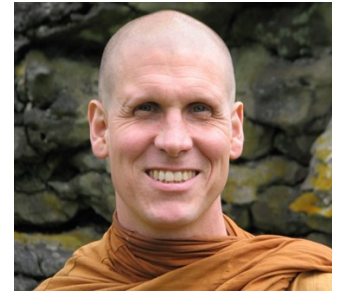
## DAY OF PEACE MEDITATION WORKSHOP

### [Carol O'Hare](#)

In this chaotic, modern world, learn to bring peace into your life through mindfulness meditation. The branch Pilgrim's Process interest group is coordinating a workshop on meditation on Saturday, May 4, 2019, from 9 am – 2 pm at St John the Divine Episcopal Church, 17740 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill. This day of instruction and practice offers both an introduction to mindfulness meditation for beginners and teachings for more experienced practitioners.

Ajahn Chadako, American Buddhist monk and abbot of a monastery in New Zealand, will present the basics of sitting, walking, and eating meditation, with an emphasis on integration into daily life. There is no charge; teachings are offered on a donation basis. For complete workshop details, such as what to bring (lunch) and not bring (cell phone!) go [HERE](#).

Contact is [Carol O'Hare](#) .



## AAUW GILROY QUILT SHOW

### *Annual Fundraiser for Scholarships and Tech Trek* *Sat, May 4, 11 am to 3 pm*

IFDES Lodge, 250 Old Gilroy St, Gilroy

Quilt display and light lunch \$25, Quilt raffle  
Contact is [Janet Espersen](#), 408-702-8706

Tickets will be sold at the event for the Quilt Show and raffle.



## IN MEMORY OF DONNA PETTIT—September 4, 1945—March 16 2019



*Donna joined AAUW Morgan Hill in 2014, shortly after she moved to our area from Paso Robles. She soon became involved with Tech Trek and enjoyed serving on the committee that selected girls to attend camp. She participated with other community groups and was especially active as a docent at the Gilroy Gardens. She and her golden retriever Booker also volunteered with Reading Buddies at local libraries.*

*Donna was a lively, happy person, who always seemed to have a smile on her face. Her generous spirit will be missed .*

## FRIENDSHIP & TRAVEL

Congratulations to **Jenny and Bob Redfern** who will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in May. The "golden" couple have invited friends to join them at Morgan Hill Cellars for an afternoon of fun on May 11<sup>th</sup>.



**Susan Fritts (left)** recently swam with the iguanas, dolphins and sea turtles during a National Geographic tour to the Galapagos Islands. Being "face to face" with the animals was a highlight of the very active tour. From Ecuador Susan flew to Peru to visit the iconic religious site of Machu Picchu .

New member, **Jill Davis**, was welcomed as a member to the Re-Entry scholarship committee.

**Nancy Altman** just completed a fabulous and strenuous hiking trip in Utah.

**Carol O'Hare** spent a month in New Zealand where she attended a grandson's wedding, toured the South Island with family members, and stayed at her son's monastery near Auckland. Carol is pictured below in the top right photo.



**Elizabeth Mandel** (at right) is enjoying her new bike in Morgan Hill,



**Suman Ganapathy** (far right) joined the Morgan Hill Downtown Association as a board member and trained as a volunteer docent at the San Jose Museum of Art. She has also been appointed to the City of Morgan Hill Library, Culture and Arts Commission. She joins **Katie Khera** (second from the left) who was appointed for another two-year term.

In March, **Chris Hopwood** traveled to Arctic Norway by sea. Along the route she did an Arctic coastal walk, went dogsledding 15 kilometers from the Russian border and saw the Northern Lights as well as some incredible scenery.



## TRAVEL TIPS—TRAVELING TO INDIA

**Suman Ganapathy, presenter**

**Marianne and Rob Knightley's** graceful home was once more the venue for the Travel Tips program on March 2. Branch member **Suman Ganapathy** gave a comprehensive presentation on traveling to India, while her husband, member **Gautam Ganapathy**, added enriching details.

India has something for every budget, from shoe-string ones offering the best values, to the most luxurious ones imaginable. There is a mind-boggling array of things to do, the secret lies in tailoring your trip to your unique interests. To really make the most of travel one should understand a country. Some topics covered were:

- Location, diverse geography, weather
- India by the numbers
- A brief look into India's history
- Contributions to the world, ancient and modern
- Things to do: (a) historical circuit (b) "royal treatment" (c) the exotic: camel rides, yaks in Ladakh, houseboats, farm stays, (d) food circuit (e) adventure tourism (f) off the beaten path – tribes & natural wonders (g) spiritual/yoga/ meditation/ashram packages (h) festivals /art & culture (i) Indian weddings (j) shopping
- Practical tips while traveling



The talk was interactive, with members in attendance asking insightful and thought-provoking questions throughout the evening. There was a large assortment of Indian foods. Some attendees had tried their hand at Indian cooking, with delightful results. The evening ended a little later than usual, which underscored the enjoyable time had by all.

Want to know more? Here are links to [NOTES](#) and [SLIDES](#) from the talk.

## HOW I CAME TO LIVE IN MORGAN HILL

Here is the fourth installment of *'How I Came to Live in Morgan Hill'* featuring **Donna Dicker's** story. This topic was originally worked on by the Friday Writers Interest Group.

We will be posting a teaser in each issue of the newsletter with a link to the entire story. We hope these stories will inspire you to write your own, which we will be happy to publish.



"My husband and I moved from our cozy, affordable bungalow in Los Altos to a multi-level house in Cupertino because we thought we needed more space. Although the house was on a hillside with fabulous views of the valley, the worry of another landslide, or one of the many teenagers who parked on our dead-end road at night tossing a match out the window causing a wildfire made us decide after several years to move on..."

For the rest of Donna's story, click [HERE](#).

If you missed our first three stories, click on the names [Jean Pinard](#), [Elsa Walton](#), and [Peggy Martin](#).



## LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

### Janet Wright

One of AAUW's landmark programs, the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) supports plaintiffs who fight gender discrimination and harassment in the workplace and in education. It is managed by our national organization in Washington DC.



AAUW adopted a new case, **Jane Doe, et al v. Howard University**, involving six current and former Howard University female students who reported sexual assaults by male employees and students. The Jane Does maintain that the University failed to respond to their requests for information about their cases and their pleas for support. They also claim that by failing to promptly investigate their complaints, the university ignored their own policies and instead took actions

which made them vulnerable to further harassment or assault.

Title IX stipulates that schools must act when they learn about incidents of sexual harassment and that students should not have to endure repeated sexual assaults before the school intervenes. Yet an increasing number of universities have asserted that they do not need to respond to reports of sexual misconduct unless a student experiences a subsequent incident of harassment or violence.



In an update on the **Rizo case**, the United States Supreme Court vacated and remanded the Ninth Circuit's decision. The case was sent back to the appellate court for additional review. The Court did not review the merits of the case, but considered whether a federal court can count the vote of a judge who dies before the decision is issued.

For more info about LAF cases, click [HERE](#)

## MONEY TREK, START-SMART & WORK-SMART

### Peggy Martin

Recently AAUW California updated their website relative to Financial Literacy: Money Trek, Start-Smart and Work-Smart programs. As a member of AAUW California's Finance Committee and an advocate for Financial Literacy for girls, women and all, our branch will be exploring the possibility of using these programs in our local community. The focus of these programs are for middle, high school and college students to understand how Financial Literacy is critical to their education, career and general well-being. I am excited to be coordinating this endeavor with our Board and Leadership Development Team.

For more information, please take a look at the following areas of AAUW California's website:

[MONEY TREK](#)

[START SMART](#)

[WORK SMART](#)

Stay-tuned for further details in our Fall Newsletter about these programs and our branch involvement.



## MARGIE SNIVELY FUTURE WOMEN LEADERS CONFERENCE 2019

### Margaret McCann



No need to fear as much about our future – today’s young women leaders have it all under control. If you didn’t get to this year’s Future Women Leaders conference, held on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at the Community and Cultural Center, Morgan Hill, put April 18, 2020, on your calendar.

Purpose: The purpose behind AAUW-MH involvement is to provide a group of highly motivated young women with the opportunity to use existing skills, and develop new ones to create an event that benefits the entire community.

History: Two years ago, students from GECA (Gilroy Early College Academy) invited AAUW-MH to attend a networking fair they had created for young women interested in getting more involved in the community. These students, aged 14 to 17, handled all the details of the huge undertaking by themselves. In post event discussions it was decided to invite other local schools to make it a more inclusive community enterprise. AAUW would coordinate and sponsor the event. Thus, the Future Women Leaders Conference was born.

This year’s event: AAUW and the City of Morgan Hill provided the funding and venue, and middle and high school students worked diligently to create the program, along with some guidance from AAUW. The resultant professionally-run program had fifteen



workshops on topics such as confidence-building, public speaking, empowerment and social justice issues, and introduced all middle and high school students to skills needed to take on future leadership positions.

Additionally, assembly member **Robert Rivas**, representing our 30<sup>th</sup> California Assembly district, **Rich Constantine**, our mayor, school board trustees and city council members came by to add their support for the event. Our keynote speaker, **Divya Gopiseti**, a Stanford graduate and former Speech Trek winner from Morgan Hill, gave a motivational talk that had the attendees sharing how they were inspired to take on issues that were important to them.

Three original team members are headed to university where they will continue to spread their ideas and motivate others in their new environment. Here at home, new leaders will jump in to take their place and plan for an even

bigger event next year. We cannot become complacent; these young women need our support both financially and in the experience that we have to share. I, however, feel a tad more secure after seeing what can be accomplished by our next generation of leaders.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### Donna Dicker, Scholarship Committee Chair



The NCCWSL committee selected **Janet Orozco** to represent our branch at the National Conference for College Women Leaders in Baltimore this May. Janet is a former alternate for the Tech Trek camp and was in student leadership at Sobrato high school. The committee was impressed with Janet’s clear goals for the conference along with her intention to apply what she learns here in the Morgan Hill community.

**Jalianna Cisneros**, last year’s NCCWSL representative, will speak about her experiences at the installation brunch at Morgan Hill Cellars.

## SPEECH TREK



Morgan Hill Speech Trek 2019 winner, Sofia Ruster, (third from right) took second place at the Speech Trek Finals at the AAUWCA Annual Meeting in San Diego on April 6, 2019. The topic this year was "How do We Eliminate Violence Aimed At our Schools?" Congratulations Sofia, we are so proud of you!



[Susan Oldham-Fritts](#), GEMS Coordinator



For those of you who visited the Finish Fest at our March 31<sup>st</sup> Wildflower Run, we hope you were able to say hi to the ten GEMS working the children’s activity booth. In addition to face painting and applying temporary tattoos, we supervised candy DNA making, the penny surface tension experiment, building and “earthquake” testing different types of block structures using a shake table, and demonstrating optical and mechanical science toys with and for our younger guests. Thanks to Patrice Lyn, Kristyn Greenwood, and Heather Poore for providing booth supervision and activity participation. This was a fun and fitting end to the GEMS program.

TECH TREK

[Joy Safakish](#), Coordinator



On March 31 the Tech Trek campers and two alternate campers volunteered at the Wildflower Run. During the Kids 2K and Seniors 2K events they were a spirited cheering squad and assisted as lap counters. At the Finish Fest they introduced themselves and described what they looked forward to at camp.

A sincere *THANK YOU!* to AAUW members who donated for the camper’s Goody Bags which they received at the Wildflower Run.



The eight campers selected to attend Camp Marie Curie, located on the campus of Stanford University, are all from local public schools. Congratulations to all students who are pictured on the left.

Top row, from left to right: Roma Shah, (Martin Murphy Middle School), JC Bolton (Charter School of Morgan Hill), Sofia Dombrowsky (Alternate, Charter School of Morgan Hill), Rachel Fox (Martin Murphy), Sofia Barreras (Alternate, Britton Middle School), Susan Kirchhoff (Britton Middle School). Bottom row, from left to right: Veronica Orozco (San Martin/Gwinn School), Samantha Pelts (Martin Murphy), Stella Gaudy (Martin Murphy) and Claire Tomasco (Britton Middle School).

**Camp Director Requests Help for Stanford Camps:**

1. We would like to have our Engineering, Cyber Security, and Coding classes visit a current or startup company. Do you work at, or have a good contact at Google, Amazon, Facebook, etc? We just need a little help to get in! Details [HERE](#).
2. We also need an instructor for a Cyber Security class at both camps. The class will be scheduled from 3:00 to 5:00 on Monday and Tuesday. Details [HERE](#).



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**The Wildflower, Volume XXXVII, Issue 5**

The Wildflower is published digitally from September to June by the Morgan Hill branch of AAUW.

**Co-Presidents:** Peggy Martin & Maggie Leininger

**VP Membership:** Jenny Redfern

**Copy Editor:** Suman Ganapathy

**Layout Editor:** Christine Hopwood

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

City of Morgan Hill [Bike Week](#)

- May 3 – 9 Bike Party, Bike Ride, Bike Movie
- May 14, Amgen Tour of California, Men’s Stage 3 ends at Outdoor Sports Center, 3:45 pm.

[Friends of the Morgan Hill Library](#)

- June 1, Book Sale, 10 am – 3 pm

[Leadership Morgan Hill](#)

- July 20, Leadership Excellence Award honoring Steve Tate, 5 pm, Guglielmo Winery, \$125

[Morgan Hill Community Foundation](#)

- May 10, [Morgan Hill Peace Project](#), Wine and World Music Fest, 5 – 9 pm, MH Cellars
- May 18, [South Valley Wine](#) Tasting and Charity Auction, 6 pm, Community Center , \$75

[Morgan Hill Historical Society](#), Morgan Hill House, Villa Mira Monte

- May 4, Alice in Wonderland Mad Hatter’s Children’s Tea, 11am- 2 pm, \$40
- June 22, Speakeasy Prohibition Party Fundraiser, 6:30 pm, \$79

[South Valley Civic Theater](#)

- April 26 - May 11, 1776 the Musical, MH Community Theater, \$16-\$25

[South Valley Symphony](#), Guglielmo Winery

- May 12, Mother’s Day Concert: Midnight in w Guglielmo Winery, 3 pm, \$40



**2019 Wildflower Run volunteer photographers**, members of the Morgan Hill Photography Club. L-R: Susan Brazelton, Dzung Tran, Phil Bowers, Elizabeth Mandel, Michelle Bui, Dong Bui

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