



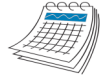
MORGAN HILL
(CA) BRANCH

The Wildflower

November/December 2019

Volume XXXVIII, Issue 2

[AAUW Calendar](#)

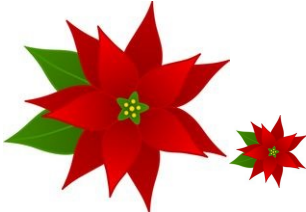


AAUW ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 15, 2019, 11am–2pm

AAUW ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

OLD CITY HALL, 7400 MONTEREY ST., GILROY
Upstairs banquet room (elevator available)
Spouses & Guests welcome!



Menu & Entertainment

Tri tip and chicken lunch with all the trimmings
No-host bar
Carols & Seasonal Music by

CHRISTOPHER HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

Make Checks Payable To

AAUW Morgan Hill & mail to:

Karen MacDonald, 16335 Flaming Oak Lane,
Morgan Hill,

Contact Karen at hospitality@aauwmh.org or
by phone 408-779-3995

Reservations

\$38 per person before December 4; \$45 per person thereafter

Final date to RSVP is DECEMBER 10

Our branch has a long association with the **Learning and Loving Education Center** here in Morgan Hill. The Center is in its 26th year providing educational opportunities to immigrant women who want to learn English and better themselves. Their children attend preschool while their moms are in class. In a woman to woman effort, our branch has provided gift cards in any amount from Safeway, Target, Walmart, or Nob Hill. This is the season to help these women and children have a happier Christmas. Please bring your gift cards to the Holiday Party.

AAUW NOVEMBER PROGRAM

[Yvonne Randolph](#), Program VP

Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Location: Morgan Hill Library 660 West Main Ave.

Time: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Speaker: Steven Pifer

Topic: The Tangled Ukraine-Russia-U.S. Triangle



AAUW-Morgan Hill will present a short talk by Steven Pifer, Nonresident Senior Fellow for Foreign Policy, Brookings Institution and former US Ambassador for Ukraine. Based on his 27 years of experience in the United States Foreign Service, he will speak on the topic: "The Tangled Ukraine-Russia-U.S. Triangle"

This program is free and open to all – please attend and bring your friends!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maggie Leininger, President



I hope this finds you all well. It's hard to believe we are coming to the end of 2019! This has been a busy year with lots of changes happening at AAUW National. Starting in January I'll be sharing with you some of the new strategies our CEO, Kim Churches, has planned.

Mark your calendars - AAUW CA will be hosting their convention the weekend of April 17, 18 & 19. This year's convention is being held at the Westin San Francisco Airport, Millbrae. Details to follow.

Planning for the 2020 Wildflower Run is underway! This is our only fundraiser and it's a fun way to be involved and make a difference. Our 2019 Run has allowed us to award \$65,000 to many programs including local scholarships, community grants, and STEM programs. We couldn't do it without you so thanks in advance for your help!

See the front page of this newsletter for information on our annual Holiday Party which will be happening on December 15. Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season!

MEMBERSHIP

Kathy Hansell, VP Membership



Thank you to those who were able to attend our Membership Brunch and hear the interesting presentations from our Tech Trek girls. We had 65 attendees and gained at least two new members that day. Sherrie Wren reports our current enrollment to be 170.



Please welcome three new members who have joined since summer

Anne Kappmeyer

Anne joined us at the membership brunch. She attended Texas State University and earned a B.A. in Marketing. Anne is interested in voter education, planning branch programs, evening books, and mamas in the kitchen. From AAUW she hopes to gain "connection".

Nancy Wulff

Nancy also joined us at the membership brunch. She attended San Jose State University where she earned a B.A. in Art Education. By being in AAUW, she hopes to meet people and learn about Morgan Hill. She learned about AAUW from Donna Dick-er. Nancy is interested in joining our book groups.

Anita Whitling

Anita attended San Jose State University where she studied dietetics. By joining AAUW she wishes to participate in the Morgan Hill community. Anita is interested in GEMS, voter education, evening books, hikes with dogs, dining out, and wine and whine.

AAUW NAME TAGS

Need a nifty name tagwith a magnet?

Contact: Make It Mine, 101 Main Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037, 408-776-0556 or mim@garlic.com.

The price is \$10 plus tax.

SEARCHING FOR 2020 – 2021 BRANCH LEADERS



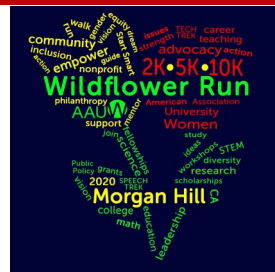
The nominating committee will soon begin its search for elected officers for the 2020-2021 year. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in being more involved with branch leadership activities, please contact [Peggy Martin](#), chair of the Leadership Development Team. If you're not sure you want an elected position but might want to serve on the board in an appointed position or on a committee, contact Peggy to explore your options.

WILDFLOWER RUN—MARCH 29, 2020

Deb Buchanan, 2020 Run Coordinator

We are looking forward to a wonderful Wildflower Run with great weather and a huge turnout in 2020. Proceeds from our highly successful 2019 Run contributed to the \$65,000 that will be distributed locally and nationally to support scholarships, grants, and other AAUW mission-based programs. Please let all your friends know about the run and the AAUW missions that the Run proceeds support.

Our 2020 Wildflower Run logo contest is over and the graphic at right is the winner designed by Yvonne Duckett, a former branch member. Watch for additional information about the Wildflower Run in the next issue of The Wildflower newsletter.



2020 Wildflower Run Logo Sweatshirt

Celebrate the centennial of women's suffrage AND AAUW Morgan Hill's 37th annual Wildflower Run with this inspirational hoodie featuring the 2020 Run logo ([click here to view the logo](#)).

Sweatshirt Orders Due November 21

The cost is \$25 each (pre-order only).

Print and send in an [order form](#) with your check.

Questions? Contact [Elizabeth Mandel](#).

WILDFLOWER FUND ALLOCATIONS

Elizabeth Mandel, Chair

The branch has approved an allocation of a record \$65,000 from our Wildflower Fund. This money consists of 2019 run proceeds, corporate sponsorships, and individual donations. It is a reflection of the amazing commitment and hard work of our entire branch.

As usual, our allocations include an impressive array of local scholarships, community action grants in support of local non-profit organizations, STEM programming such as the Stanford Tech Trek camperships for middle school girls, and leadership programming such as a Leadership Morgan Hill sponsorship, Speech Trek, and the Young Women's Leadership Conference. In addition, we continue to generously support AAUW nationally by sending money to the AAUW Fund.

This year, in addition to increasing allocations across all categories of funding, we made a major additional commitment to Community Action Grants---with an expressed focus on education programs. We also added a specific allocation of \$1,000 for the South Valley Science and Engineering Fair, increased our Reentry Scholarship funding (since we have expanded student eligibility for these scholarships), and significantly increased our branch contribution to AAUW nationally.

Read more [here](#).



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LEADERSHIP MORGAN HILL—CLASS OF 2020

[Peggy Martin, AAUWMH Leadership Development Team Chair](#)

Announcing the Leadership Morgan Hill – AAUW Representatives for 2020

Congratulations to **Susan Oldham-Fritts** and **Patrice Lyn**, who have been accepted as members of the Leadership Morgan Hill Class of 2020. Susan and Patrice will be excellent representatives of our branch. Their tuition will be covered by a branch scholarship from our Wildflower Fund and Operating Fund.



Susan has held many roles within our branch: coordinator of GEMS (Girls Engaged in Math and Science), co-Program VP and co-President. She has also been the camp coordinator of Tech Trek (Stanford Camp Curie), led Professional Women's Night and a Chemistry Night volunteer. Susan's goal in participating is to gain leadership skills, community understanding, new friends, business networking and promote STEM community participation

Patrice is a newer member of our branch. She has been a proponent of community service since she was a teenager, understanding its importance and impact early on. Patrice's goal in participating is to gain leadership skills, community understanding, new friends and business networking.



Darcy Foster, formerly a Live Oak teacher, is another branch member who is also part of LMH 2020, although her tuition is not being covered by AAUW. Darcy says that now that she is retired, she has the time to participate in the local community and branch activities. She has already agreed to help with the annual Wildflower Fund Giving Campaign.

We are very proud of these women and look forward to hearing about their experiences.

LEADERSHIP MORGAN HILL – CLASS OF 2019 GRADUATION



From left to right: Dr. Kathleen Rose, Christina Turner, Cinda Meister, Margaret McCann, Robin Shepherd, Susan Oldham-Fritts, Suman Ganapathy, **Elizabeth Mandel, (2019 LMH Class Graduate)**, Anne Kappmeyer-Eshel, Janet McElroy, Peggy Martin

Peggy Martin, MSFS, ChFC
Partner
25 Metro Drive, Suite 600
San Jose, CA 95110
408.453.2221 = 408.886.9866 Fax
peggy@fwcg.net = www.fwcg.net
Family Wealth Consultants, Inc., A Registered Investment Advisory Firm

The logo for Family Wealth Consultants, Inc. (FWCG), consisting of the letters F, W, C, and G in a stylized, blocky font arranged in a 2x2 grid.

Marisa Otto, AAMS®, CFP®
Financial Advisor

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A small headshot of Marisa Otto, a woman with dark hair, smiling.

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MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PHILANTHROPY AWARDS

On Friday, November 15, at their Annual Philanthropy Dinner, the Morgan Hill Community Foundation will publicly recognize our Branch Honoree, **Donna Dicker**, who has made a significant philanthropic/volunteer contribution to the AAUW Morgan Hill Branch.

Donna has done much for our Branch as described below. The photo at right shows Donna (seated) with President, Maggie Leininger, standing behind her at left, and Peggy Martin at right.

Donna and her husband moved to Morgan Hill in the summer of 1996. At the time she was teaching in the Santa Clara School District at Peterson middle school. She continued there until she retired in 2003. Donna joined AAUW through an invitation from Carol O'Hare after she had been attending the AAUW book group for several months.

Carol's invitation opened up the opportunity to meet many wonderful, talented women, to form lifelong friendships and to become a contributing member to the larger Morgan Hill community.

Donna's first job with AAUW was as an interest group chair. In this capacity, she informed new members of the many groups that were available to them and signed them up if they were interested.

Donna was passionate about supporting women to continue their education and became a member of the high school scholarship committee. Eventually, she became chair of the re-entry scholarship committee and in 2010 she got branch board approval to form **Keeping In Touch**, a grant program to continue giving financial assistance to former AAUW scholarship winners so they can pursue their education further. Donna also serves on the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) and Lauren Jenkins Healthcare Profession Scholarship committees. Finally, Donna became scholarship coordinator overseeing the four local scholarship programs.

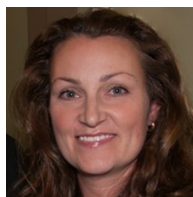
Donna was also interested in Tech Trek, and for a number of years has served on the Tech Trek committee and annually helps select the girls who will attend the math and science camp each year at Stanford University.

For many years she acted as the chair of the Wildflower Run Goody Bag committee, and as Friendship chair she wrote a column for the Wildflower newsletter. She continues to communicate with members who have had a personal loss or illness. Last, but not least, in 2004 she paired up with Judy Kinker to become co-president.

Donna's greatest personal pleasure as an AAUW member has been to participate in the evening book group, the Mamas in the Kitchen cooking group, and the Writers Group. Although Donna's membership in the branch spans many years, she looks forward to continuing to contribute to the goals of AAUW.

Congratulations to two other members of our branch who are also being honored this year at Philanthropy Night.

Amy Whelan, (photo below left), is being honored by the Morgan Hill Community Foundation, and **Cecelia Ponzini**, (photo below right) is being honored by The Edward Boss Prado Foundation.



AAUW Morgan Hill leads the way in Community Involvement

CHECK OUT OUR



www.aauwmh.org
Send suggestions & updates to
[Sandy Stooob](#)

PUBLIC POLICY

Carol Holzgrafe, AAUW CA Director and AAUW MH branch member

As we face the 2020 national election, it can be helpful to see what is transpiring closer to home. Fortunately for us, the AAUW California Public Policy committee has prepared this information for you at aauw-ca.org. You will thank yourself for taking a few minutes to visit these pages: [Public Policy](#), public policy [Resources](#), and [Action Priorities](#) for 2019-2021.

The AAUW CA Public Policy program supports our mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research, and complements the national Public Policy program. AAUW CA's priorities for action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, and member support.

- Achieve economic security for all women
- Support a strong system of high quality public education,
- Guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society

To learn more about AAUW national Public Policy, go [HERE](#)

FRIENDSHIP & TRAVEL

[Jill Paveza](#)

Carolyn and Chuck Wilson have moved permanently to their Santa Cruz beach house from their home in Holiday Lakes. Her email and cell number remain the same. Carolyn has been a branch member for 35 years, joining AAUW in 1984.



To read more about here, go [HERE](#).

Karen MacDonald has been

honored by the Friends of the MH Library with the Best of Friends award. It was presented at a luncheon on October 24, which was also the 45th anniversary of the Friends.



Betsy Ding's family vacation to



Maui took a different turn when she ended up at the

Maui Medical Center for an emergency pacemaker surgery. Four days of her 10 day vacation with the family were spent at the hospital. Betsy has recovered and is doing well at home.

Each year, Gavilan Community College presents three Community Spirit Awards for Morgan Hill/San Martin, including an individual, a business, and an organization, to honor the people and institutions that contribute to improving the quality of life in our community. This year, **Cecelia Ponzini** is the 2019 Gavilan College Spirit Award Honoree (Individual). The other awards were presented to Operation Freedom Paws (Organization) and Creative Manufacturing Solutions (Business).

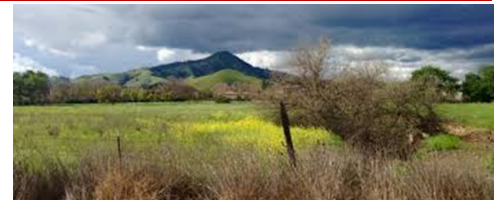
Congratulations Cecelia!

HOW I CAME TO LIVE IN MORGAN HILL



Our series on how various members of the AAUW Writers Group came to live in Morgan Hill continues with **Chris Hopwood**, who wrote her recollection in February 2017.

"One very good reason not to move to Morgan Hill was the commute to work in Sunnyvale. On the other hand, the housing prices were better than further up the peninsula so we couldn't rule it out entirely and kept looking at houses here.



In late 1988 the company my husband and I worked for in Florida lost its funding from the Japanese and my husband was let go. As his wife, they laid me off too, but I was hired back as a contractor and was able to work from wherever I happened to be. The gravitational pull of Silicon Valley to my husband, a computer scientist, was very strong. We had moved from Southern California to Florida in 1982, passing up the opportunities in Silicon Valley, and it seemed an omen that it was time to try Northern California. On the other hand, I was not keen. I had worked a lot with folks in Silicon Valley and found them rather an arrogant lot. Pennsylvania is where I really wanted to go. But computer jobs were hard to come by in Pennsylvania so Silicon Valley was the choice." [Read more](#)

For the previous six stories, click on the names [Jean Pinard](#), [Elsa Walton](#), [Peggy Martin](#), [Donna Dicker](#), [Beth Wyman](#) & [Margo Hinnenkamp](#)

AAUW FUND FALL LUNCHEON 2019

Janet Wright AAUW Fund VP

The [AAUW Fund](#) Fall luncheon was held on October 6, 2019, at the Crow Canyon Country Club. Five women who had been given AAUW grants and fellowships spoke about their goals. The following are two examples.



Cheyun Lee, a recipient of the Morgan Hill Blaine-Cate Fellowship is pursuing her MBA at Santa Clara University. She came from a traditional Korean family, entered into an arranged marriage and followed her husband to the United States. It took her seven years to recognize that she was in an abusive relationship. She escaped to a shelter with her daughter three years ago. She brought her daughter to the luncheon. She is interested in studying how abusive women struggle financially. She

speaks to several groups in the Bay Area of her experiences. **In the above photo, from left to right, Peggy Martin, Janet Wright, Cheyun Lee, Judy Kinker, Carol O'Hare and Carol Holzgrafe.**

Jazmyne Gill is pursuing a master's degree in biology at Sonoma State. She is a first-generation Hispanic college student. She was raised by a single mother and suffers from a chronic autoimmune disease. The scholarship is especially meaningful to her as she cannot work in addition to attending school because of her illness.

All of the women were very grateful for the assistance AAUW had provided in allowing them to pursue their studies.

TECH TREK

Joy Safakish



Five of our eight Tech Trek campers gave stellar presentations of their camp experiences at the Fall Membership Lunch on September 15, 2019. In the coming year, the TechTrek committee will be working to choose eight campers for the STEM camp held at Stanford University next July 2020. If you're interested in helping, our Tech Trek Kick-Off Meeting is on **November 14th, 7:00 p.m. at Centennial Recreation Center, Morgan Hill.** Contact Tech Trek Coordinator Joy Safakish at techtrek@aauwmh.org for information about this initial meeting.



AAUW YOUNG WOMEN LEADERS – CLIMATE RALLY

Margaret McCann

AAUW's Young Women Leaders joined young and not so young Morgan Hill residents, including a team of Specialized bicycle riders, in a rally protesting the lack of action from world leaders on the impending climate disaster. Millions of students around the world chose Friday, September 20th, the weekend before the United Nations was to meet in New York to discuss climate change, for their protests, strikes, and rallies. They were letting the world know that their future and the future of their children are being jeopardized if major changes are not implemented immediately. "This is not a fairy tale" they chimed "the Sky is Falling and we are sounding the alarm".

Hassti Tirjardoon, a junior at GECA, Gilroy Early College Academy, said the rally was to put a spotlight on the climate catastrophe. Hassti, along with other members of the Young Women Leaders, planned the Morgan Hill event that involved all schools in the Morgan Hill area. Specialized Bikes joined in by supplying the PA system and stage, and Tanya Carothers and Tony Eulo, city of Morgan Hill environmental services department, set up tables and answered questions about what the city was doing to address the situation.

Amirah Alexander, a student from the Mt. Madonna High School, stated that she has always been passionate about the planet and this was a great opportunity to get involved with a project that could get the message out.

The Young Women Leaders are organizing a youth conference on 'Climate Change' at Morgan Hill's Community and Cultural Center on Saturday, April 18, 2020.





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Morgan Hill AAUW

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Visit us on [Facebook](#) or
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President: Maggie Leininger
Co-VP Membership: Kathy Hansell & Sherrie Wren
Co-Editors: Suman Ganapathy & Chris Hopwood

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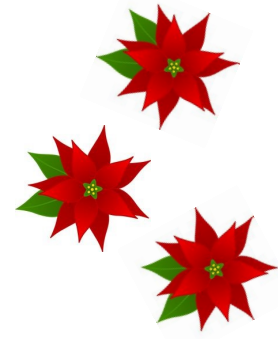
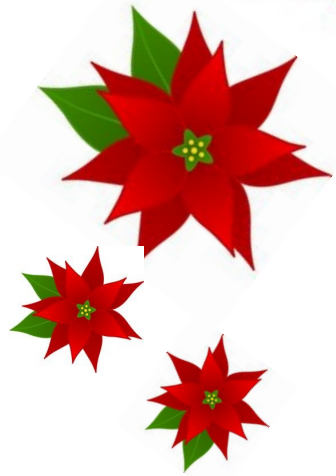
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Sunday December 15, 2019
11am–2pm
**AAUW ANNUAL HOLIDAY
PARTY**

OLD CITY HALL, GILROY
2ND (Floor (elevator available)
Guests welcome!

See front page for more information

HAPPY HOLIDAYS