



MORGAN HILL
(CA) BRANCH

The Wildflower

January/February 2019

Volume XXXVII, Issue 3

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Monthly programs are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 7 pm at the Morgan Hill Library



January 22, 2019

Speech Trek 2019: "How Can We Eliminate Violence Aimed at Our Schools.

See page 3 for more information.



February 26, 2019 Walt Disney Museum & the Contribution of Women Animators.

See page 3 for more information

THE CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

[Peggy Martin](#), and [Maggie Leininger](#), Co-Presidents



With 2018 in our past, our reflections and comments for the year are:

- Living in gratitude and sharing precious moments of each day. We honor **Margie Snively** and are so thankful that our paths came across her path.
- Appreciating the wonderful holiday celebration we had! A big thank you to **Margo Hinnenkamp**, **Karen MacDonald** and **Elaine Reimer** for creating a fantastic event. How inspiring it was to hear the awesome Christopher High School choir carolers, and the Old City Hall Restaurant in Gilroy provided a delightful venue for us.

We hope you all had a happy holiday season. Now we look forward to so much in 2019:

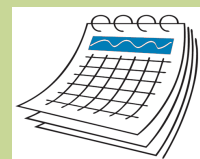
- **Elizabeth Mandel** – participating in Leadership Morgan Hill representing our branch.
- Speech Trek – what words of wisdom will we hear.
- **Carolyn Garfein** (past president AAUW National) – speaking to our branch on January 26th on the future of AAUW and why AAUW matters in this day and age.
- Our Wildflower Run on March 31st – anticipating another great event. Volunteering is a really fun way to meet new people and contribute to the success of our fundraiser, so please say yes when contacted by [Janet McElroy](#).

For photos of the Holiday Party, go [HERE](#).

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[AAUW Calendar](#)



AAUW: Who Are We? What Do We Do? Why AAUW Matters

Leadership Development Team

Saturday, January 26 Special Workshop and Guest Speaker

Morgan Hill House at Villa Mira Monte

9:00am—10:45am Workshop: AAUW: Who are we? What do we do?*



Join the AAUW-MH Leadership Development Team in an engaging and informative workshop.

Learn how AAUW is changing the lives of women and girls in our local community and through national programs. Find ways that you can get involved.

Did you know that AAUW:

- Is part of a national organization that influences public policy?
- Raises \$50,000 each year through our Wildflower Fund?
- Provides grants and scholarships that make a difference in the lives of women and girls?

The workshop takes place 9:00 to 10:45 am.

*Participation is limited to **25**. **New members are especially encouraged to attend.**

Please RSVP to [Janet McElroy](#) by January 19.



11:00am—12 noon Guest Speaker: Why AAUW Matters

Explore the future of AAUW with Carolyn Garfein, past AAUW national president (2009-2013) and member of the AAUW 2018 Strategic Plan Task Force.

Immediately following the workshop, **Carolyn Garfein**, will speak about AAUW accomplishments and outline its goals for the future. She will also explain how the AAUW 2018 Strategic Plan is designed to help achieve our mission.

Carolyn's talk is open to all branch members and guests. No RSVP is needed. Both events take place at the Morgan Hill House, Villa Mira Monte, 17860 Monterey Road.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Jenny Redfern, Membership VP

Please welcome these new members:

- **Amanda Groce** worked many years in the motorcycle clothing and design industry after receiving a BA in Fine Arts from UC Santa Barbara. She is currently the owner and head trainer at Johnny 6 Stables and also works as an accountant. She enjoys living in downtown Morgan Hill and looks forward to making new friends in AAUW.
- **Barbara Miner Montes** earned a BS in bio sciences and a teaching certificate from SJSU, and a master's in educational administration from National University. She taught and worked in the San Jose Unified School District for 30 years, first as an elementary school teacher and the last few years as the Math Resources Coordinator. Now her passions are reading, current events, and her grandchildren. She is interested in helping with Speech Trek and GEMS.
- **Lorri Paulsen** has a BA in math from Wagner College and is retired from IBM. She stays active as an official at track and field events. Lorri would like to get involved with the hiking and movie interest groups. She learned about AAUW from Christine Hopwood and joined at our Holiday Party.



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UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

SpeechTrek 2019: "How Can We Eliminate Violence Aimed at Our Schools?"

[Joanne Rooney](#), *Speech Trek Coordinator*

High school students will compete in this annual speech contest on Tuesday, January 22, at the Morgan Hill Library. Contestants will be judged on content, delivery, and organization. The top three will receive cash prizes of \$100, \$200, and \$300.

A video of the MH first place student will be sent to AAUW CA Speech Trek for judging, and the top three in the state will be invited to compete at the AAUW CA annual meeting in April. The winner of that contest will receive \$1500.

Volunteers are needed: five judges, two timers and two videographers. If you can help, contact [Joanne](#).

Speech Trek has been sponsored by AAUW CA since 2007. Our local contest, now in its sixth year, is funded by the Wildflower Fund with member donations and Wildflower Run proceeds. Read more at www.aauwmh.org/speech-trek.



Disney Women Animators and the History of Cartooning

[Yvonne Randolph](#)

Danielle Thibodeau, museum educator from The Walt Disney Family Museum, will talk about women animators and the history of cartooning on February 26. Learn about Disney artist Mary Robinson Blair, a 1929 graduate of Live Oak Union High School, who went on to study fine art at SJ State College and the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles. By 1940 she and her husband Lee Blair were both working for Walt Disney. She was responsible for the color and design elements of such films as "Cinderella" "Alice in Wonderland" and "Peter Pan." Later, after working as a freelance artist, Disney recruited her as lead stylist for "It's a Small World." In 1970 the Blairs moved to Soquel, where she died in 1978.



A watercolor painting by Mary Blair hangs in the Morgan Hill Historical Museum. It was a wedding gift to her high school classmate Virginia Horton Sword in 1934. In 2009 Virginia gave the painting to the Historical Society. Currently, it is on loan to the Pasadena History Museum for their exhibit on California Women Artists.



IN MEMORY OF MARGIE SNIVELY



August 22, 1947–November 9, 2018

Margie was killed in a tragic automobile accident on November 9. Although she had only been a member of AAUW since 2015, she had quickly become a valuable addition to our branch and our community. She was serving her second year as co-program vice president and assisted with the Future Women Leaders Conference. She was also active with Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) and was a member of Toastmasters. She was passionate about social justice, loved to travel, and was devoted to her family. In her memory, the new high school leadership scholarship will be named for her.

A memorial gathering will take place on Sunday, January 13, at 10:00 am at the Countryside Villas Clubhouse, 14900 Venetian Way. Gifts in Margie's memory may be made to her favorite charities,

[Books for Africa](#) or the [Truckee-Donner Land Trust](#)

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WILDFLOWER RUN: SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019

Pat Toombs, Co-Run Director



Please join us in helping to make the 36th annual Wildflower Run an overwhelming success! This is our branch's only fundraiser, so we ask full participation from our members. During the Run, AAUW and community volunteers gather to cheer on runners, give out t-shirts and goodie bags, answer questions, and assist our sponsors at the Finish Fest area. Proceeds from the Wildflower Run help support our mission-based activities, including Tech Trek, local scholarships for women and girls, as well as national AAUW programs.

If you don't have a job, please contact volunteer coordinator [Janet McElroy](#), and she can set you up with something you'll enjoy. We also need your help to publicize the Run. Please encourage your friends and family to go to our Wildflower Run website to register. Group registrations are also quite effective, so share information with your class or club. Groups of 10+ receive a \$5 per person discount. Email [Wendy Bell](#) for a group discount code. Online registration is available through Active.com, or runners can download and mail in a Registration Form available on the [Run website](#).

WILDFLOWER RUN CORPORATE SPONSOR UPDATE

Barbara Palmer, Corporate Sponsor Chair

Thanks to Amy Whelan and Katie Khara who have joined the 2019 Corporate Sponsor Team. The deadline for \$1,000 and \$2,500 sponsors is January 7, so logos can be printed on t-shirts, posters and other print material. We have received payment from The Family Wealth Consulting Group for \$2,500, and commitments from American Institute of Mathematics, Anaerobe Systems, and The Edward Boss Prado Foundation at the \$1,000 level. There are several new businesses in The Granary that will be receiving Sponsor Packets. We are working our way toward meeting our \$28,500 goal so our branch can continue to provide scholarships, Tech Trek camperships, and Community Action grants in our community.

ANNUAL WILDFLOWER FUND GIVING CAMPAIGN

Carol O'Hare, Member Donations

Each year we ask our members to make a contribution to The Wildflower Fund, which supports all of our branch's philanthropic activities: local scholarships and grants, Tech Trek, and national AAUW programs. The Fund includes donations from members, contributions from Wildflower Run corporate sponsors, and proceeds from the Run.

You may make your tax-deductible gift by

Check (payable to ISPF-AAUW) and mail to Wildflower Fund, AAUW-MH, P.O. Box 1528, Morgan Hill, CA 95038 OR

Online through PayPal at www.aauwmh.org. (Scroll down to the bottom and click on the Donate button.)

We encourage all members to contribute; no donation is too small. Please check with your employer about matching your gift. This could double your donation.

Thank you for helping to support education and equity for women and girls. If you have questions or want more information, contact [Carol O'Hare](#).



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A small portrait of a woman with dark hair, wearing a pink scarf and a dark top.

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AAUW HONOREE NOMINATIONS FOR 2019

[Janet Wright](#), AAUW Fund VP

The AAUW Honoree program was established as a way for branches to recognize members who have made an outstanding contribution to the mission of AAUW, their branch, or the community. Honorees are chosen from nominations submitted by the membership. A committee of last year's recipients – [Mary Cox](#) (chair), Maggie Leininger, Joy Safakish, and Pat Toombs— will make the selection, and honorees will be announced at the May 2019 brunch. Please send your nominations to Mary no later than **January 30**, along with your reasons for making the recommendation.

Criteria to consider for nominations include: promoting the mission of AAUW, length of time in the branch, service as a board member, variety of branch positions held, performing multiple jobs, behind the scenes worker, and community service that increases the visibility of AAUW.

You may nominate as many members as you think deserve to be recognized, although those who have received this award in the past five years are not eligible.

2018 Mary Cox, Maggie Leininger, Joy Safakish, Pat Toombs
2017 Donna Dicker, Jenny Redfern, Sandy StooB
2016 Margo Hinnenkamp, Patricia Kindred, Karen MacDonald
2015 Marti Jurick, Margaret McCann, Elaine Reimer, Joanne Rife,
2014 Kathy Hansell, Carol O'Hare, Faith Protsman

For names of those who have received the award prior to 2014, click [HERE](#).

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

[Janet Wright](#), LAF Chair

- **Zoe Spencer Ph.D.** is suing Virginia State University (VSU), alleging wage discrimination and retaliation. Her case was dismissed, and she is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth District. Local AAUW members stood with her in support for oral arguments in the courtroom as pay inequity in academia remains an ongoing problem.
- AAUW signed onto an amicus brief challenging the Trump administration's contraception coverage rules in *Massachusetts v Health and Human Services et al* in the U.S. Court of Appeals. In October 2017, the administration authorized employers with religious or moral objections to contraception to block their employees and dependents from receiving health insurance coverage for contraceptive care by nullifying provisions of the Affordable Care Act that would guarantee such coverage. AAUW supports no-cost contraceptive coverage because it increases women's ability to participate and succeed in the workplace and helps women reach their aspirations in higher education.



PUBLIC POLICY: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

[Joy Safakish](#)

AAUW's public policy advocates support for a strong system of high-quality public education and adequate and equitable funding for all students, including preschool.

The California Budget and Policy Center has released its latest child care and preschool fact sheet with the headline that, adjusted for inflation, state spending on early care and education (ECE) programs are "near pre-recession levels with [a] boost from one-time funding". However, funding for vital pieces of California's ECE system, like resource and referral agencies and local planning councils, have either not been restored or have not kept pace with inflation. Given that, the report seems less like a cause for celebration than evidence of the state's ongoing underinvestment in its youngest citizens.

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HOW I CAME TO LIVE IN MORGAN HILL

Here is the second installment of *'How I Came to Live in Morgan Hill'*. This was originally a topic 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.

Our second story features member Elsa Walton and her unusual story of how she and her husband came to live in Morgan Hill.



If you missed our first story written by **Jean Pinard**, click [HERE](#).



“Once upon a time my husband and I lived in a small home in Los Altos. My husband commuted a short distance to his business in Mountain View. In February 2006 we began to talk about making a major life style change. After participating in a one-year clinical trial, Dennis seemed to have escaped the dire predictions of stage 4 cancer from metastasized melanoma. We had a second chance.

Owners of a business rarely take vacations and at 65, Dennis had worked all his life. I wanted him to retire and get away from the stress of being a construction sub-contractor. We arranged to have employees manage the business, so that Dennis could semi-retire.”

(For complete story click [HERE](#).)

SPOTLIGHT ON INTEREST GROUPS: WRITERS WORKSHOP

Kay Kulvinder Arora – Chair



Our new Writer’s Workshop interest group is already a success. This group welcomes aspiring writers to write and share short pieces in a writer’s workshop. So far, we have met twice and have a solid group working together. Our goal is to support each other’s aspirations and provide constructive feedback to further our writing skills.

The group meets on alternate weeks for two hours. The schedule will be determined soon. Contact Kay for details.



MORGAN HILL PHILANTHROPY AWARDS

Peggy Martin

The Morgan Hill Community Foundation's 2018 Philanthropy Night in November honored branch member **Jenny Redfern**, as well as three additional members of AAUW MH, who were selected by other non-profits: **Robin Shepherd** (Lewy Body Dementia Awareness & Research), **Chris Hopwood** (South Valley Symphony), and **Amy Whelan** (Sister Cities). The evening celebrated the many volunteers and philanthropists who do so much for Morgan Hill.

AAUW members at the event (Jenny 4th from left).



2018-2019 AAUW MONTHLY PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

Suman Ganapathy & Christine Hopwood

We are starting a new thread to document the comprehensive, educational and captivating monthly programs we present to the public at the Morgan Hill library each 4th Tuesday of the month. Our presenters are unique and come from a broad spectrum of disciplines. Here is your chance to relive the evening if you were in attendance, or pique your curiosity to see what you missed. We hope you will join us at the library every month .

AUGUST 29, 2018: What Does Russia Want? How should we respond?



STEVEN PIFER, former US Ambassador to Ukraine, is a nonresident senior fellow in the Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Initiative Center at the Brookings Institute. His talk covered his time as Ambassador to Ukraine and at the State Department. He covered the work he did for the US to enter into cooperative agreements with Russia, Ukraine and Europe and how these agreements are maintained today. It was a very interesting overview of a challenging relationship. For a synopsis of the talk, [click here](#).

Steven Pifer with Lesley Miles

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018: November Election Candidates' Forum

A synopsis written by Margaret McCann was covered in the [November 2018 newsletter](#) on page 5.

OCTOBER 22: Redefining Human: The Role of the Microbiome in Health and Disease



This fascinating topic of the human microbiome was presented by [Dr. Embriette Hyde](#), scientist, freelance science writer, managing editor at SynBioBeta, and instructor and mentor at Schmahl Science Workshops.

Who knew we shared our body with 39 trillion micro-organisms, and that they were so wildly interesting and important! It changes everything we know about being human. Intrigued? [Here's more.](#)

L – R: Peggy Martin, Mary Cox, Dr. Hyde, Margie Snively, Yvonne Randolph

NOVEMBER 27, 2018: Costume Designing

This lively, informational talk, presented by Professor Barbara Murray, costume designer for the Department of Theatre & Dance at Santa Clara University and enhanced with props of sumptuous theatre costumes, costume plots, and colorful slides, was clearly a crowd favorite.



Using the costumes displayed as examples, she explained the elaborate and collaborative process of designing outfits and costumes for stage productions and dance, and the design elements and principles used to express both ideas and atmosphere in a production. [Here's more.](#)

L– R: Maggie Leininger, Barbara Murray, Peggy Martin, Yvonne Randolph

FRIENDSHIP

[Donna Dicker](#), *Friendship Chair*

Our heartfelt condolences to Jan Conrey and Susan Oldham-Fritts on the loss of their mothers.

Congratulations to Suman Ganapathy, who has been appointed to the board of directors of the MH Downtown Association.

Several Interest Groups held holiday parties: Mary Cox hosted 30 members of Evening Books at a potluck and book exchange. Fourteen members of Friday Writers brought food representing their holiday favorites to the December 14 meeting hosted by Christine Hopwood.



Memorable Travels



In September **Inger Govin** spent two weeks in her home country of Norway. The definite highlight of this trip was her visit to the Norwegian Opera when she went to see the World Premiere of a new ballet, *The Hamlet Complex*, creatively based on Shakespeare's play, with music written by her nephew Henrik Skram.

Read [more](#) about her delightful musings and a story in The Seattle Times about her opera singing brother from 1962.

In December **Barbara and Allen Palmer** spent four days in beautiful, chilly Vienna visiting the Klimt exhibit at the Belvedere and learning about the slightly neurotic Sisi at Schonbrunn Palace. They then boarded the SS Beatrice Uniworld River Cruise to visit Austrian and Bavarian Christmas markets along the Danube.



HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECTS

AAUW was one of the co-sponsors of BookSmart's Gift of Reading program that collected new books for underserved children. Members of AAUW and Friends of the Library sorted and boxed a total of 581 books that will help support literacy among local children.



Thanks to the generosity of branch members, \$1075 in gift cards was contributed for the immigrant women and children at the Learning and Loving Education Center. These gifts go to needy families who have no extra money to spend for the holidays.

Members also contributed many gift cards to help AAUW Paradise branch members and others who lost their homes in the Camp Fire.

UPCOMING TRAVEL TIPS: INDIA

[Jenny Redfern](#), Chair



"Travelling in India"

February 16, 7:30-10 PM

Presented by Suman Ganapathy

The group meets at the home of Marianne and Rob Knight, 16920 Zinfandel Circle, MH, 408-465-8974

Please bring an Indian-themed snack or dessert to share.

RSVP required no later than Thursday Feb. 14

"A land of remarkable diversity – from ancient traditions and artistic heritage to magnificent landscapes and culinary creations – India will ignite your curiosity, shake your senses and warm

your soul." – Lonely Planet. There is so much to see in India. The secret is to tailor your trip to your unique interests. Suman will discuss the various travel circuits, how to plan an itinerary, and provide information on how to navigate across the country.



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Co-Presidents: Peggy Martin & Maggie Leininger

VP Membership: Jenny Redfern

Copy Editor: Suman Ganapathy

Layout Editor: Christine Hopwood

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Chamber of Commerce

- Mar 2, Celebrate MH Awards Dinner, An Evening at the Circus, Guglielmo Winery, \$110

Friends of the Library, MH Library

- Jan 26 Winter Book Sale, 10 am to 3 pm
- Jan 26, Silicon Valley Reads , A. J. Jacobs, author of "It's All Relative," 4:30 pm

South Valley Civic Theater, MH Community Playhouse

- Feb 8 – March 2, "Godspell" teen musical, \$16 - \$25

South Valley Symphony, Gavilan College Theater

- Mar 9, NextGen 2019 7:30 pm, \$25

Women's March San Jose

- Jan 19 11 am– 3 pm. Contact [Jenny Redfern](#) for more information



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