

MONTHLY AAUW SPEAKER SERIES AT THE MORGAN HILL LIBRARY

Don't forget to attend the AAUW speaker series held on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 7 pm. More details on [Page 4](#).

January 28

The Forgotten Women of Middle-Earth by David Bratman, writer of Tolkienian biography and bibliography.



February 25

Topic: *Are Men and Women Truly Equal Today, or are the Suffragists of 1920 Still Suffering in 2020?*



WOMEN WIN THE VOTE CENTENNIAL 2020

Carol O'Hare

One hundred years ago on August 26, 1920, all women were finally granted equal voting rights when the 19th amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. The struggle to win this basic right began in 1848 at the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, NY. It took women years of working together ceaselessly at the local, state and national levels - campaigning, lobbying, making speeches, organizing parades and protests, picketing, and even going to jail - to convince those in power (men) to pass woman suffrage.



This is a year to commemorate what women have accomplished over the past century and to look forward to what remains to be achieved for equal rights. Centennial events begin with the **Women's March** on Saturday, January 18. It will start at San Jose City Hall at 11am. The **Morgan Hill Historical Society** will present a special conversation on March 7 that focuses on local women.

The theme for **Silicon Valley Reads 2020** is "**Women Making It Happen.**" Julian Guthrie, author of *Alpha Girls: The Women Upstarts Who Took on Silicon Valley's Male Culture and Made the Deals of a Lifetime*, will speak at the MH Library on Saturday, March 28.

The AAUW CA Convention, "**Remembering the Past, Rockin' the Future,**" takes place April 17-19 in Millbrae. The 4th annual **Morgan Hill Women's Week** will be August 24-28.

Watch weekly emails and future newsletters for details of these and other upcoming centennial events.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

[Maggie Leininger](#)

Happy New Year! Hope this finds you all well and rested from the holiday season.

In an effort to keep the membership informed, for the next several newsletters, I will be sharing issues we are discussing at our board meetings.



In this issue, I'd like to address Gavilan College's new board policy which mandates that all scholarships that run through Gavilan's system be gender neutral. In past years, Gavilan has been a huge resource for us in finding scholarship applicants for our **Re-Entry** and **Lauren Jenkins Scholarships**. We supplied our scholarship info and they matched us to potential applicants. With the passing of the new BP we are no longer able to use Gavilan's process since we offer scholarships only to women and girls. We are now researching other avenues, both online and in our community, to post our scholarship information.

Given this change in Gavilan's policy, the hot topic at our December board meeting was whether or not we should change to gender-neutral wording. Ultimately, after much discussion we decided not to make any changes, to be congruent with the expectations of our 2019 corporate donors. And you all thought board meetings were boring! Gender-neutral and inclusivity are ideas that are not going away, though. This idea is being discussed at the national level ... but that is a topic for another time and newsletter.

I am also happy to announce the recognition and appreciation elicited by our branch gift of \$20,000 to National AAUW, showing our commitment to the overall mission of AAUW, including our goals in education, training, economic security and leadership of women.

To read the letter of thanks from National AAUW to our branch with a personal note from National AAUW President, Kim Churches, [CLICK HERE](#).

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

[Kathy Hansell](#), Membership VP

Please welcome new member **Marsha Stein** to our branch. She previously lived in Baltimore and worked in Operations for United Airlines. Her husband is a neurobiologist. She moved to Morgan Hill to help care for a grandson. She also has two grandchildren who live in Myanmar where they spent the holidays. She participates in Evening Books and volunteers with the Friends of the Library.



Planning Ahead: The New Member Wine and Whine originally scheduled for April 17, 2020, has been changed to April 15.

AAUW NAME TAGS

Nifty name tags, magnet included, are available from:

Make it Mine

101 Main Street

Morgan Hill, CA 95037

408-776-0556 or mim@garlic.com

The price is \$10 plus tax



HOLIDAY GIVING PROJECTS

[Carol O'Hare](#)



Thanks to the generosity of branch members, over \$1100 in gift cards and cash were contributed for the immigrant women and children at the **Learning and Loving Education Center**. These gifts go to needy families who may have no extra money to spend for the holidays.

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 nearly 1000 books for nine schools to help support literacy among local children.

2020 WILDFLOWER RUN : SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020

[Deb Buchanon](#), Run Director



Please join us to make the 37th 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 and 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 [Pat Toombs](#), and she can set you up with something you'll enjoy. We also need your help to publicize the Run. Share information with your class or club. Please encourage your friends and family to go to our Wildflower Run website to register. Online registration is available through Active.com. Or mail in a registration form from

the [run website](#).

The Run includes the 5K walk or run, 5K stroller, and 10K run on scenic back roads. The 2K for seniors or kids takes place on the school track. All participants receive t-shirts, goodie bags and Jamba Juice smoothies. The Finish Fest Expo has sponsor and vendor booths plus activities for kids. This is a fun event for both runners and volunteers.

WILDFLOWER RUN CORPORATE SPONSOR UPDATE

[Barbara Palmer](#), Corporate Sponsor Chair

The 10 members of the dedicated Corporate Sponsor Team have been working diligently since our October 24 kickoff meeting. We contact potential sponsors in the community and beyond who might be interested in supporting AAUW MH through our Wildflower Fund. The \$65,000 we allocated in July, 2019 was raised from run proceeds, member donations, and corporate sponsors. This is why we are able to generously give out money for scholarships, community action grants, leadership MH scholarship and more. Thus far we have raised \$6,300.

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 for women and girls, Tech Trek science/math camp for middle school girls, and national AAUW programs. The Fund includes donations from members, contributions from Wildflower Run corporate sponsors, and proceeds from the Run.

We encourage all members to contribute; no amount is too small. Your donation may qualify as a charitable tax-deduction, and be sure to check with your employer about matching your gift.

You may make your donation by: (a) Check payable to ISPF-AAUW (Interbranch Special Projects Foundation, our 501(c)3 account) and mail to Wildflower Fund, AAUW-MH, P.O. Box 1528, Morgan Hill, CA 95038 **OR** (b) Online through PayPal at www.aauwmh.org. (Scroll down to the bottom and click on the Donate button.)



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 at [DONATIONS](#).

CHECK OUT OUR

WEB SITE!

www.aauwmh.org
Or
Send suggestions and updates to
[Sandy Stooß](#)





AAUW CALENDAR

MONTHLY AAUW SPEAKER SERIES AT THE MORGAN HILL LIBRARY

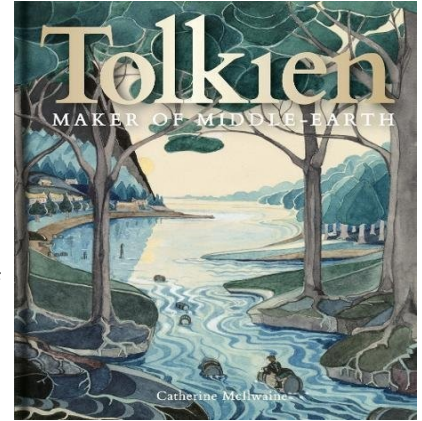
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JANUARY



On January 28, 2020, David Bratman, consulting librarian, co-editor of *Tolkien Studies: An Annual Scholarly Review*, and writer of Tolkienian biography and bibliography will speak on *The Forgotten Women of Middle-Earth* and the surprising proto-feminism that often appear in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* stories, and his fair treatment of intellectual and moral conflict between women and men.

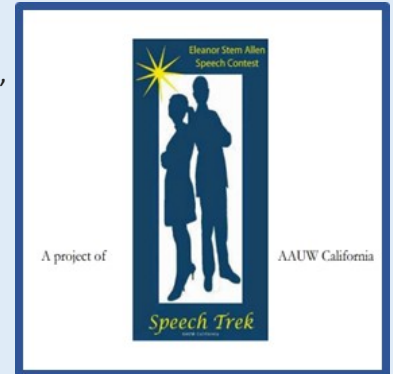
Sounds interesting? Anyone who is a fan of *The Hobbit* and/or *The Lord of the Rings* should save the date. [More info.](#)



FEBRUARY

On February 25, the 2020 AAUW Speech Trek Contest will be held. This contest is open to all high school students attending school or residing in Morgan Hill. Each participant will research, prepare and present a 5-6-minute speech on the topic: "Are Men and Women Truly Equal Today, or are the Suffragists of 1920 Still Suffering in 2020?" If you are curious about how this young generation perceives the achievements, failures and goals of women striving to empower themselves, mark your calendar.

Public speaking is a valuable skill to further one's career and become an effective community leader. Recognizing its value, the AAUW California held the first Speech Trek contest in 2007. Last year, Sophia Ruster, an 11th grade student at Oakwood School in Morgan Hill, placed 2nd in the California contest. [More info](#)



Coming in March 2020: *How Wildfires Behave* with Dr. Craig Clements, associate professor and director of the Fire Weather Research Laboratory, SJSU.

SCHOLARSHIPS



[Donna Dicker](#)

Wanted! members with marketing and tech skills who would like to help spread the word about our Re-entry and Lauren Jenkins Medical scholarships to the local community. Benefits include a chance to work with creative people and great snacks.

Interested? Please contact [Donna Dicker](#).



Volunteers Needed!

Happy New Year

AAUW HONOREE NOMINATIONS FOR 2020

[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 – Peggy Martin (chair), Elizabeth Mandel, Monica McClintock and Suman Ganapathy – will make the selection, and honorees will be announced at the May brunch. Please send your nominations to [Peggy Martin](#) 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 the 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.



2019 Elizabeth Mandel, Monica McClintock, Peggy Martin and Suman Ganapathy

2018 Mary Cox, Maggie Leininger, Joy Safakish, Pat Toombs

2017 Donna Dicker, Jenny Redfern, Sandy Stooob

2016 Margo Hinnenkamp, Patricia Kindred, Karen MacDonald

2015 Marti Jurick, Margaret McCann, Elaine Reimer, Joanne Rife,

For names of those who have received the award prior to 2015, click [HERE](#).

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS

[Susan Rife](#), Chair

Community Action Grants are awarded to local non-profit organizations for activities consistent with AAUW's mission, and are through the AAUW MH's Wildflower Fund. Thirteen applications were received and 10 grants awarded. They are:

- **Advent Group Ministries, \$700** for staff training for First Aid Art Groups for Brighter, Trauma-Free Futures, a program in a residential treatment program for 30 teenage girls and transgender youth in Morgan Hill.
- **Literary Legacies: \$200** for materials and books for a gender identity writing workshop for boys & girls.
- **BookSmart Community Advantage, \$700** for the Gift of Reading, which distributes hundreds of books each year to young readers.
- **Learning and Loving Education Center: \$1,000** in support of the "English Now!" program.
- **Community Solutions: \$800** for "Liberated: Self-Sufficiency for Survivors of Interpersonal Violence," a program that teaches financial literacy and career planning.
- **Morgan Hill Peace Project: \$500** toward completion of a monument to build peace, tolerance and friendship.
- **Discovery Counseling Center: \$750** for Bold Quest Mentor and Bold Journey Elementary programs to build communication skills and self-esteem in elementary and high school students.
- **Poppy Jasper International Film Festival: \$750** in support of "See It and Be It," a program to encourage high school girls in becoming involved in filmmaking.
- **Britton Middle School: \$750** in support of intramural soccer and flag football games to encourage girls to participate in recess and lunchtime "pickup" games.
- **PA Walsh School: \$850** toward campus beautification, including painting of the school stage, new stage curtains and a mural near the student drop-off point, to build school pride.

www.aauw.org

Community Action Grants: AAUW



THE TANGLED UKRAINE-RUSSIA-U.S. TRIANGLE: A RECAP

Steve Pifer Nonresident Senior Fellow for Foreign Policy, Brookings Institution, Stanford Research Fellow, and former US Ambassador for Ukraine spoke on November 26, 2019, at the Morgan Hill library. His presentation was extremely knowledgeable and informative. A recap of his talk was prepared by branch member Marilyn Pifer and Steve Pifer.

Below is a teaser, with a link to the complete recap:

“When considering the Ukraine-Russia-U.S. triangle, it makes sense to look at each side.

Ukraine-Russia

Ukraine and Russia have historical, cultural, linguistic and religious links that go back to the 10th century AD. From 1654 to 1991, with the exception of a couple of chaotic years after World War I, what is now Ukraine was part of the Russian Empire, then the Soviet Union. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Ukraine was the hardest part for Russia to lose. Many Russians— including Vladimir Putin — have not yet reconciled themselves to the fact that Ukraine is now an independent state.

The latest chapter in the Ukraine-Russia saga began in 2013, as Kyiv prepared to sign an association agreement with the European Union...”



For a complete recap of Steve Pifer’s talk, click [HERE](#).

MORGAN HILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WOMAN OF THE YEAR - CAITLIN JACHIMOWICZ

Suman Ganapathy

Congratulations to member Caitlin Robinett Jachimowicz, named the Morgan Hill Woman of the Year exactly 18 years after being Morgan Hill’s Student of the year in 2001.



The epithet **Wonder Woman** to describe this accomplished, experienced and inspirational professional and community leader is not hyperbole. She founded Morgan Hill’s highly successful **Women’s Week** in 2017 as a new Morgan Hill City councilwoman, which celebrates women’s achievements from all walks of life, students, career women and stay-at-home mom alike, and is a forum for engagement and discussion of important issues that women face. A senior managing attorney at her family-owned law firm, she is also a wife and a mother of two young children, a full-time job in itself. Additionally, she is on the board of the Edward Boss Prado non-profit Foundation, a Chamber of Commerce member, and represents state assembly representative Robert Rivas on the Democrat Club central committee. She is also currently training to be a grief counselor. I can’t think of a more deserving woman to be Morgan Hill’s Woman of the Year!

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF)

Janet Wright, LAF Chair

In August, an LAF supported case in the U.S. District Court in the District of Minnesota, **Portz v St. Cloud State University**, was decided in favor of a class of female student athletes. In 2016, the athletic department decided to cut six teams from its athletic program, including both the women’s tennis and Nordic skiing teams. At the same time, the school also adopted a roster management plan—a way to cap participation on men’s teams and pad participation on women’s teams—designed to achieve Title IX compliance.



The judge found that the school had violated Title IX and must maintain both women’s teams, improve the facilities of women’s sports teams to create equity with the men’s teams, and take other relevant steps to provide female students with equitable athletic opportunities. The judge stated that the school could implement a cost-savings program that does not result in discrimination against women.

In August, the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Virginia sided with transgender student Gavin Grimm, ruling that his former high school’s refusal to let him use the bathroom that aligned with his gender identity constituted discrimination under Title IX and violated his rights under the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

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

HOW I CAME TO LIVE IN MORGAN HILL

This sixth installment of *'How I Came to Live in Morgan Hill'*, a topic originally worked on by the Friday Writers Interest Group, features Suman Ganapathy.



Below is a teaser 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.



*"I was always destined to put down my roots in beautiful Morgan Hill, I can see that now. My first visit here was on **September 23, 2000**, but the story really started fifteen months before.*

*Ever since we alighted at San Francisco International Airport on **June 12, 1999**, our sojourn in the U.S. had been a terrific and dizzyingly winged adventure, broadening in mind, and girth too, with delectable temptations abounding. Weekends were a novel and unexpected treasure that expanded our horizons right away. Saturdays weren't holidays in India, and Sundays were just off-days, so the phrase TGIF had always mystified me. What was so great about Fridays? Now I knew. Hurray for all-American mini holiday weekends! Through research, we discovered that California was larger than many European countries... "*

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

Missed our first five stories? Click on [Jean Pinard](#), [Elsa Walton](#), [Peggy Martin](#), [Donna Dicker & Chris Hopwood](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON ARTS OUTING INTEREST GROUP

[Janet McElroy](#), Chair

Have you heard about an upcoming local arts event (theater, symphony, dance, museum visits, opera etc.) that you'd love to attend with a group? This interest group is open to all members. We attend plays and movies, visit museums and have a good time. Recently a group saw "Steel Magnolias" at the Community Theater after a delicious meal at the Thai restaurant in town. In August several members drove up to the Legion of Honor Museum in San Francisco to see the Early Rubens exhibit. In June, we saw 1776 after dinner together. If you would like to suggest an event for a group, contact Janet McElroy with details and she will publicize it through our weekly email. Janet collects RSVPs and then arranges car pools if needed.



TRAVEL TIPS

On January 25, 2020 [Marcia Fishman](#) presents: **Israel**. Perfect for both the devout and ardent travelers, Israel's stunning natural, historical and religious sites, cuisine and amazing local culture are worth seeing at least once in your lifetime.

Time: 7:30 PM **Hosts:** Marianne & Rob Knight, 16920 Zinfandel Circle, Morgan Hill, CA 95037 Please bring an appetizer or dessert from Israel or the Middle East. Additionally, wine is appreciated, and guests are always welcome!

RSVP: by January 22, 2020. [TEXT](#) or [E-MAIL](#).



AT THE DISTINGUISHED AUTHOR SERIES



[Teresa Stephenson](#) (President of Friends of MH Library), [Carol O'Hare](#), and [Elizabeth Mandel](#) with their copies of the *Library Book* signed by author Susan Orlean (seated). They, along with [Karen MacDonald](#) and [Susan Anderson](#), heard Orlean speak at the Campbell Heritage Theater, part of the Distinguished Author Series funded by Santa Clara County Library District. Ms. Orlean was an engaging and entertaining speaker.

TRAVEL AND FRIENDSHIP



1



2



3



4



5



6

1. Many thanks to dear **Judy Kinker** for chairing the bylaws committee for 17 years, and providing wine and delicious popcorn every time.
2. **Marcia Fishman** was in Israel in November. She will be sharing photos at the first Travel group meeting in January. Also, Marcia's new house is just about ready to move into.
3. Bob and **Jenny Redfern** traveled to the UK with family in October. They marveled at Chihuly glasswork on display in Kew Gardens, London.
4. **Elsa Walton** celebrated her 80th birthday in December with friends and family. She blew out the candles on a cake from Gayle's Bakery in Capitola - YUM.
5. **Gautam & Suman Ganapathy** and their son went to New York in October to visit their daughter. They enjoyed a variety of only-in-New York experiences there, and also met Gautam's aunt and family in Staten Island.
6. Rich and **Margo Hinnenkamp** and **Jean Pinard** spent a week in Antigua, Guatemala, in late October. They were part of an 18-member service team with Common Hope, a Minnesota based nonprofit organization whose mission focuses on education for elementary and high school students. They are grateful to have been able to be a part of this incredible team and experience.
7. John and **Jill Paveza** spent a week in Maui, enjoying swimming, snorkeling, fish tacos, and Mai-tais. Then they drove to Southern California, spending time in San Luis Obispo. In Los Angeles, they stayed at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel, followed by an uncle's 80th birthday party, and then on to Portland, Oregon, for an early Thanksgiving and 90th birthday celebration for Jill's mother. They have had a busy fall indeed!

Send news for TRAVEL AND FRIENDSHIP to [Jill Paveza](#).

SOME AAUW HOLIDAY PARTIES



AAUW Holiday Party - Dec 15, Old City Hall Restaurant, Gilroy



Friday Writers' Potluck - Dec 13, at Chris Hopwood's home



AAUW Holiday Party



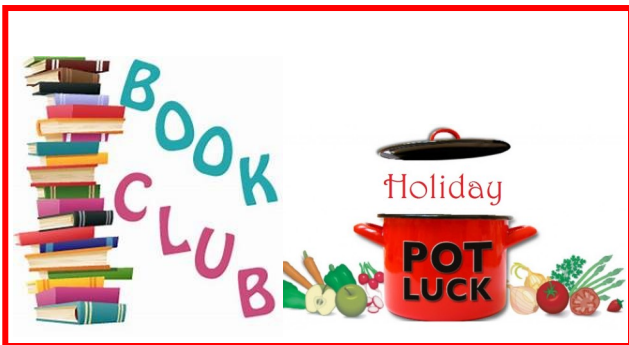
Afternoon Books potluck & Book Exchange - Dec 16, at Kathy Hansell's home



AAUW Holiday Party - Marji & Cinda with NCCWSL recipient



Wine & Whine Potluck - Dec 18, at Tessy Albin's home



Evening Books Potluck & Book Exchange - Dec 2, at Mary Cox's home



Writers' Workshop Potluck - Dec 19, at Kay Arora's home



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Visit us on [Facebook](#) or
at www.aauw-morganhill.org.

MORGAN HILL
(CA) BRANCH

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VP Membership: Kathy Hansell, Sherrie Wren

Editor: Suman Ganapathy

Editor: Chris Hopwood



HAPPY NEW YEAR

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comfortable and productive.

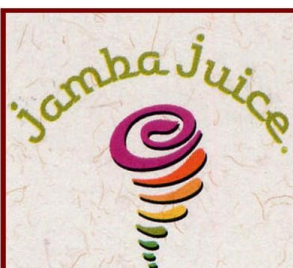


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