



MORGAN HILL  
(CA) BRANCH

# The Wildflower

March—April 2020

Volume XXXIII Issue 4

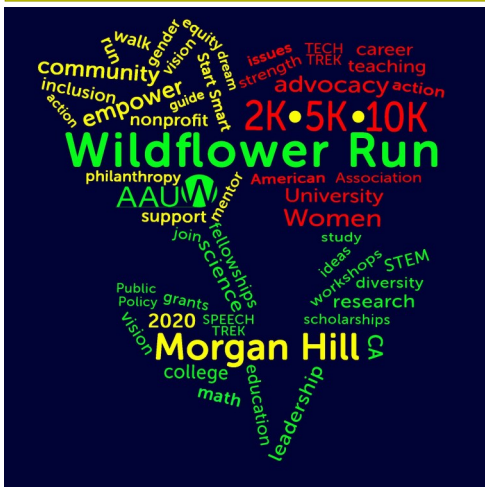
## Coming up in March

THE AAUW MONTHLY PROGRAM scheduled for Tuesday, March 24 is being

**POSTPONED**

because of the coronavirus. The re-scheduled date will be posted in the weekly e-blast.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 29—WILDFLOWER RUN 2020

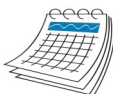


- Volunteer
- Participate
- Donate
- See page 4
- For details

## Looking back . . .

### Women's March San Jose 2020

About 20 AAUW MH members and supporters were among the 1000s who participated in the 4th annual Women's March San Jose on January 18.



[AAUW Calendar](#)

## Coming up in April

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

New Member Wine & White  
Villa Mira Monte  
5:30—7:00 pm  
All members welcome.  
See page 2 for details



### FRIDAY—SUNDAY, APRIL 17 –20



### AAUW California State Convention 2020

April 17– 19 at the Westin  
San Francisco Airport, Millbrae  
See page 5 for all details



## President's Message

[Maggie Leininger](#), *President*



This week's sunny weather reminds me that our annual Wildflower Run is around the corner!

This is the only fundraiser we as a branch take on so we would love to have all our members participate in some fashion. We have an assortment of jobs that need to be completed – nothing is too taxing or time-consuming because we all chip in. If you still don't have something to do, please contact [Pat Toombs](#) and she will find a place for your talents and skills! **The big day is Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at Live Oak High School**, but there are many jobs that need to be done before then. I can't stress enough how fun and fulfilling it is to be a part of this event.

Also – AAUW CA Convention is coming Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. This year's convention is being held in Millbrae next to the San Francisco Airport. Registration is online at [AAUWCA.org](#) or through the [California Perspectives](#) newsletter. Because Convention can be expensive, the Board has authorized the release of \$1,000 from our operating budget to go towards member stipends to help offset Convention costs (maximum of \$200/person). Please see the article on **page 5** in this issue for more information.

“The Wildflower Run is our only fundraiser ...we would love to have all our members participate... contact [Pat Toombs](#) and she will find a place for your talents!”

## Membership

[Kathy Hansell](#), *Membership Co-VP*

We currently have **174 members** with **three new members** to welcome:

**Donna Ruebusch**—Donna attended Oregon State and San Jose State University. She is a retired teacher who taught in the Morgan Hill Unified School District for 37 years. She also served as union president and later as a Morgan Hill school board member. She has expressed interest in working on local scholarships, joining afternoon and evening book clubs, and attending Wine and Whine.

**Richard (Ric) Smith**—Ric attended the University of Phoenix and Cal Poly. He holds a degree in electrical engineering. He is a retired software engineer and active local volunteer. Ric was named Volunteer of the Year for his work with Friends of the Library. He also leads walks of downtown Morgan Hill for the historical society.

**Kim Gardener**—Kim attended Fullerton Community College and San Jose State University. She holds an A.A. Degree in English and a B.A. in journalism. She is currently working as a part time dog walker. She is interested in working with Community Action Grants and hospitality. She would like to join our hikers group.

**SAVE THE DATE** **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15**, is the date for the special **New Member Wine and Whine**; a chance to meet our new members. The event will be held at **Villa Mira Monte, 17860 Monterey Road, Morgan Hill, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.** This year the branch will provide both the appetizers, catered by Rosy's at the Beach, and wine from Guglielmo Winery. Current members, new members and guests, especially prospective members, are all welcome. **Come and join the fun! R.S.V.P. to [Linnie Lee](#).**



AAUW Branch Name Tags are available at:  
**Make it Mine**, 101 Main Street. Morgan Hill, CA 95937, 408-776-0556 or [mim@garlic.com](mailto:mim@garlic.com)  
The price is \$10 plus tax.

## Slate of Officers for 2020—2021

### Peggy Martin, Nominating Committee Chair

The Nominating Committee recommends the following Slate of Officers for elected board positions for AAUW Morgan Hill 2020-2021 year, beginning July 1. The Nominating Committee included: Kathy Hansell, Margo Hinnenkamp, Janet McElroy, Pat Toombs, and Peggy Martin (Chair).

According to our branch Bylaws, members have the opportunity to make additional nominations before the slate is voted on in April. Please send any nominations to Peggy Martin by March 15. The final slate of officers and voting instructions will be sent to all members by April 1.

**President: Marian Sacco.** Marian currently serves as branch President-Elect. She also is Wildflower Run medals chair and assists with Tech Trek camp interviews. Other volunteer activities include vice president of her HOA, Leadership Morgan Hill Class of 2005, and LMH alumni committee. She is a former VP at a medical technology company and currently works as a realtor, handling low-income housing.

**President-Elect: Suman Ganapathy.** Suman has been both layout and copy editor for the newsletter. She heads up Afternoon Book Group, participates in Evening Books and Writer's Group, is a member of the Bylaws Committee and is in charge of the Wildflower Run 2K events. She is a past recipient of a Leadership Morgan Hill grant, serves on the City's Library, Culture and Arts Commission, and is on the board of the Morgan Hill Downtown Association.

**CFO/Treasurer: Tessy Albin.** Tessy is our current CFO/Treasurer. She has served as Wildflower Run water stops chair for several years. She is retired; her professional experience included controller at a high-tech company and ownership of her own business in Morgan Hill. She has an extensive financial and accounting background.

**VP Programs: Yvonne Randolph.** Yvonne has been VP of Programs for two years. She is a Wildflower Run Finish Fest volunteer, was a member of 2007 LeadershipMH, and participates with the Engage MH community group.

**Co-VP Membership: Kathy Hansell.** Kathy is in her second year as Membership Co-VP, a position she also held several years ago. She participates in Afternoon Books and Leadership Development and was chair of the re-entry scholarship committee. Her professional experience includes 31 years of teaching: spanning nursery school, middle school, and community college.

**Co-VP Membership: Sherrie Wren.** Sherrie is currently Co-VP Membership with Kathy. She is also treasurer for the Friends of the Morgan Hill Library. She was a founder of the MH Community Garden, serving as its president and treasurer for ten years. In her professional life, she was a water quality researcher for USGS.

**VP AAUW Funds: Peggy Martin.** Peggy is currently chair of the Leadership Development Team. She has served as branch president/co-president, CFO and treasurer (six years), is WFR treasurer, and President of ISPF-AAUW. She participates in Evening Books and Friday Writers Group. She is a past Leadership Morgan Hill grant recipient and is treasurer of the MH Community Foundation. She and her husband are partners in a financial services business.

**Secretary: Pat Toombs.** Pat took on the responsibilities of Wildflower Run Director for three years. She is now coordinating volunteers for the 2020 Wildflower Run; previously she served as chair for several Run committees. She is a member of the Leadership Development Team.



## Wildflower Run

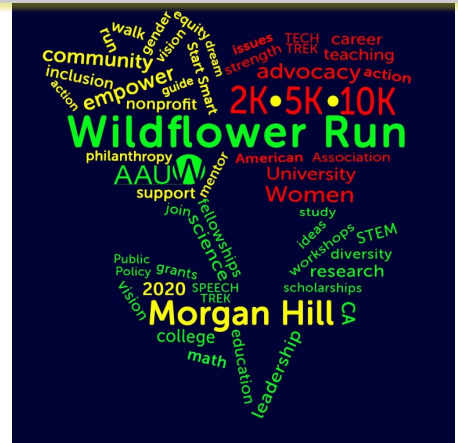
**Debra Buchanan**, Director

It looks like the spring weather should be perfect for our 2020 Wildflower Run, which is nearly here! **We really need your help promoting it, and volunteering to support the Run, either with a job before the Run, or on March 29th, the day of the Run.** During the Run, AAUW and community volunteers gather to cheer on runners, give out T-shirts and goodie bags, answer questions and support our sponsors at the Finish Fest area. If you don't have a job, please contact volunteer coordinator [Pat Toombs](#), and she can set you up with something you'll enjoy.

Please remind friends and family and any groups that you may belong to that registration fees go up on March 19th. For the best rates, register now! We give **additional discount codes** (\$5 off each registration) **for groups of 10 or more, and family rates for 4-6 persons.** Please get additional registration information online at [www.wildflowerrun.org](http://www.wildflowerrun.org).

This year's pre-Run packet pickup on Saturday, March 28th, will be held at BookSmart in the Vineyard Town Center.

If you have not sent in your Wildflower Run donation (tax-deductible, check with your tax preparer), please read message below from [Carol O'Hare](#) and follow her instructions for doing so.



**Annual Wildflower Fund Giving Campaign**  
**Support equity and education for women and girls.**

**Carol O'Hare**

Our thanks to the many members who have already made their contribution to The Wildflower Fund. Your gift helps support 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.

We encourage all members to give; no amount is too small.

You may make your 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](http://www.aauwmh.org). (Scroll down to the bottom and click on the Donate button.)



***“We encourage all members to give; no amount is too small.”***







### AAUW California State Convention 2020

April 17-19 at the Westin  
San Francisco Airport, Millbrae

The AAUW CA Convention offers opportunities to expand your knowledge about AAUW and its mission, develop leadership skills, and network with members of other branches.

For complete Convention details, go to the Winter edition of the [California Perspective](#). You may register for three full days, including all meals and events, **or** for only specific activities. Some will want to take advantage of hotel accommodations; others may prefer to drive back to Morgan Hill. **Registration deadline is April 10**; make **hotel reservations by March 20**.

**Are you interested in attending Convention but concerned about the cost?** See the article below on possible branch financial help and convention volunteer refunds.

If you are thinking about going to Convention or have questions, contact [Carol O'Hare](#).

### Help with AAUW CA Convention Costs

#### BRANCH STIPEND

To encourage members to attend the AAUW CA Convention and recognizing that the cost may deter some, the branch is offering stipends of up to \$200 to help toward expenses. The board has approved \$1000 from the operating account for this purpose.

To apply for a stipend, first review Convention information in the [California Perspective](#). Select a “package” and decide about hotel reservations. (Sharing a room will reduce that expense.) Once you have determined total cost, submit it, along with a requested stipend amount (maximum of \$200) to [Peggy Martin](#), Leadership Development Chair, **no later than March 15**.

You will be notified before March 20 if you will receive a stipend and how much. The amount will depend on how many members apply, as well as your projected expenses. Reimbursements will be paid immediately after Convention.

#### CONVENTION VOLUNTEER REFUND

Many volunteers are needed to help during Convention, and volunteering is another way to reduce costs. For five hours of work, you will receive a refund of \$75 of the registration fee. You must sign up ahead of time, including where and when you want to volunteer. The refund will be paid after verification of service. Details at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-convention/>.

#### WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND

- Participate in stimulating workshops, topics ranging from cultural diversity to GOTV to new ways to communicate and engage members.
- Hear inspiring speakers, including:

**Kim Churches, AAUW CEO, “What’s Next in the Fight for Equity?”**

**U.S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier, “How the Future Looks for Women in Politics”**

- Attend Speech Trek finals.
- Celebrate the centennial of women’s suffrage at the Gala Dinner, where top branch donors to the AAUW Fund for 2019 will also be honored.
- Learn to become an effective advocate and get your branch more involved in public policy.
- Get an update on the fight for pay equity.
- Have fun with branch members at after-parties with wine and chocolate!

## Friendship, Travel & Travel Tips

### Jill Paveza, *Friendship*

Condolences to Pat Toombs, her father died in October and her mother passed away in January. They were married for 72 years. A joint Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. The location is GraceWay Church, 1183 Quarry Lane, Pleasanton. If you are interested in attending and would like information on a possible carpool, please contact [Lori Mains](#).

Sincere sympathies to Judy Kinker on the death of her husband Karl in January.

All good wishes to Patty Crone, as she recovers from a mild stroke.

### Travel



Joanne Rife attended the wedding of her granddaughter Erica Rife to Asad Butt in Sedona, Arizona, the last weekend in December. The outdoor wedding took place near Bell Rock, part of the red cliffs so famous in the Sedona area. The gorgeous setting was a marvelous backdrop, but by the end of the festivities the temperature had dropped to 38 degrees and the wedding party scampered back to their Airbnb to recover with hot coffee and hot chocolate. Only Erica, wearing her great-great grandmother's white mink coat, survived unscathed.

The families also enjoyed a Hummer Tour trip into the red rock cliffs through Schnebly Hills canyon, scoured the art galleries of Sedona, and toured through the old mining town of Jerome, set on a mountainside above the Verde River Valley. Joanne was also

able to visit with a college friend in Phoenix.

### Travel Tips

At the January 25 Travel Tips session, Marcia Fishman shared her wealth of information for traveling in Israel, and photos of her most recent trip. She has traveled there several times, alone and with friends of various religions, and to visit relatives. Marcia understands where it's safe to travel and where it isn't and has excellent ideas for how to find guides and transportation. Marcia also has a list of 20 "don'ts" for travelers in Israel, including "Don't be afraid to try new foods!" And "Don't shave before going in the Dead Sea!" The photo at right shows the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.

The next Travel Tips topic and date is a work in progress so stay tuned!



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## Keeping in Touch (KIT) Scholarship Grants

### [Donna Dicker & Jan Bergkamp](#)

This year's Keeping In Touch (KIT) committee is pleased to announce the award of \$8500 to eight of our former scholarship winners. It was wonderful to hear of the successes of this strong group of young women, from aerospace engineering and data science to communications and psychology. All of these women are currently enrolled at a four-year college.

The list of this year's winners: Lindsay Baker, San Jose State, nursing; Alyssa Gonzales, San Diego State, psychology; Raya Kavosh, UC San Diego, data & cognitive science; Morgan Kissinger, CSU Monterey Bay, psychology; Sruchi Patel, UC Los Angeles, film; Rachel Sjostedt, UC San Diego, aerospace engineering; Arabella Williams, UC Santa Cruz, psychology; and Rishelle Zertuche, San Jose State, communications. KIT is supported by the Wildflower Fund.

## Legal Advocacy Fund

### [Janet Wright](#), LAF Chair

In September 2019, AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund adopted the case of Freyd v. University of Oregon. Jennifer Freyd has been a Professor in the Psychology Department and is a national leader in the field of trauma psychology. She is the most senior staff member of the Psychology Department based on years in rank. Her salary, however, is substantially less than that of several of her less-senior male colleagues.



In 2016, the University commissioned studies that uncovered gender equity problems with salaries at the full professor level. One study showed that the difference between male and female full professors in psychology is about \$25,000 per year. The reports suggested that the disparity resulted largely from "retention raises" awarded to faculty who pursued outside offers, as an incentive to remain with their current university rather than accepting a better-paid job at a new university.

Freyd filed a lawsuit against the University in the U.S. District Court of the District of Oregon claiming discrimination. The court ruled against her stating that the need to retain professors with outside offers is a sufficient defense to a claim of sex discrimination.

Professor Freyd has filed an appeal to the Ninth Circuit. AAUW will continue to support her through her appeal.

## Speech Trek

### [Joanne Rooney](#), Chair

On February 25, 2020, students from Ann Sobrato High School participated in the AAUW CA Eleanor Stem Allen Memorial Speech Contest, sponsored by AAUW-Morgan Hill and the Morgan Hill Library. This year's theme was, "Are Men and Women Truly Equal Today, or are the Suffragists of 1920 Still Suffering in 2020?" Students spoke on such issues as changing attitudes about women in the workplace and raising percentages of women in government, stem fields and executive positions. Cash prizes were given to the following students: [Gelasia Tiwana](#), 1<sup>st</sup> place, [Diya Kandhra](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> place and [Danielle Chaisson](#), 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The winning video has been sent to AAUW CA for state-wide judging. Click on each winner's name to see the video of their speech. Many thanks to our AAUW MH volunteers and Toastmaster MH who helped coach, time, video and judge the speeches.



L-R Margaret McCann, Danielle Chaisson, Diya Kandhra, Gelasia Tiwana and Joanne Rooney.



## High School Scholarship Winners 2020-2021

### Donna Dicker & Jan Bergkamp

An outstanding group of high school seniors has been chosen to receive scholarships from AAUW MH for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The winners from Sobrato high school are **Emily Dinh**, \$1,000, a business major; **Abigail Brendlen**, \$1,000, an art major; **Shalimar McGinnis**, \$1,000, International Relations major; and **Hannah Slaybers**, \$500, a Neuroscience major.

Representing Live Oak High School are **Kassandra Shores**, \$1,000, a pre-nursing major; **Amanda Cummings**, \$1,000, a pre-law major; and **Gillian McCaw**, \$1,000, an Aerospace Engineering major.

**Crystal Mendoza** of Central High School, \$500, will be pursuing certification as a veterinarian technician.

The girls were chosen by this year's high school scholarship committee: Holly Henry, Darla Andresen and co-chairs Joan Sullivan and Tammy Parker. We look forward to meeting some of the girls at the Wildflower Run and the Spring brunch in May. Local Scholarships are supported by the Wildflower Fund.

## Young Women Leaders Conference

### *Margaret McCann*

On April 18<sup>th</sup> a group of dedicated Young Women Leaders will host its 4<sup>th</sup> leadership conference for high school and college students in Morgan Hill. The day-long event will be held at the MH Community and Cultural Center. The theme of the conference is tackling the climate change crisis. Workshops and panel discussions will cover energy waste, agricultural concerns, and consumerism, among other topics. Attendees will hear keynote addresses by **Tara Sreekrishnan**, (Policy & Outreach Director for Santa Clara County), and **Dave Cortese** (Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors).

This year the conference seeks to engage the community by collaborating with the City of Morgan Hill and the AAUW MH Climate Change Interest Group to provide activities, games, raffles, and demonstrations. In the outdoor area of the Community Center, local organizations will have booths with information and useful ideas about how members of the community can lower their 'carbon footprint' and keep Morgan Hill, as well as the rest of the planet, a healthy place to live. For more information, go [here](#).



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275 Tennant Ave.  
Ste. 200a  
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Bus. 408-778-4400  
Fax 877-222-8361  
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www.edwardjones.com  
California Insurance License 0C24309



**Patricia Kindred**  
INTERNATIONAL LEISURE TRAVEL ADVISOR

Morgan Hill  
California, 95037

D (408) 778-1025  
M (408) 219-8214  
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