



MORGAN HILL
(CA) BRANCH



The Wildflower

President's Letter

This is my last President's Letter. I want to say how proud I am to be part of such a dynamic, creative, and intelligent group of people. We have had some enormous hurdles to jump this year, but everyone pitched in and got the job done.



Maggie Leiningner, President

I want to start with the hope that this finds you and your families healthy and safe!

The biggest update concerns our Wildflower Run. Because of the shelter-in-place requirement, we were not able to hold our WFR this year at Live Oak but with the help of some very dedicated and smart women, we were able to transition the Run to a Virtual Run! Doing this allowed us to keep almost all of our registered runners and Sponsors. Our biggest hurdle was delivering shirts and goodie bags to our runners. Many thanks to **Lori Mains, Pat Toombs, Elizabeth & Peter Mandel, Doris Fredricks, Jill & Drew Paveza** and **Rina Sutaria** for their help stuffing, sorting, mailing and delivering all the bags to the runners.

We have also had to get creative with the scheduling and planning of upcoming events. Our annual **Spring Brunch has been cancelled** and instead the incoming and outgoing board members will be hosting a Zoom meeting at the end of June to make the transition official. Our **Summer BBQ** is tentatively scheduled to be held at **Morgan Hill Cellars** in the middle of **August**. I say tentatively because all will depend on whether or not large gatherings will be allowed by then. So stay tuned to your weekly email blasts for dates and times.

Thank you to my board: **Marian, Yvonne, Kathy, Coleen, Janet, Sherrie, and Tessy** for all your hard work and dedication. Also many thanks to the WFR committee who made sure we reached the finish line this year. Thanks to **Deb Buchanan** our WFR chair and **Barbara Palmer** our Sponsor chair and special thanks to **Peggy Martin** for being my sounding board.... I could go on and on but will finish up by saying – **please keep healthy and safe**. Don't forget to reach out if you need help or just to talk. We are all family during this time. ***I can't wait to see you all at our next event!***

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AAUW MH Board of Directors 2020-2021

CONGRATULATIONS to our incoming president **Marian Sacco!**

I know Marian will be bringing with her lots of energy and new ideas.

Rounding out the board will be

President-Elect: **Suman Ganapathy**

Membership VPs: **Kathy Hansell & Sherrie Wren**

Programs VP: **Yvonne Randolph**

Treasurer: **Tessy Albin**

Secretary: **Pat Toombs**

AAUW Fund: **Peggy Martin.**

Virtual Wildflower Run 2020



Elizabeth Mandel

The 37th Annual Wildflower Run, initially scheduled for March 29 at Live Oak High School, was converted to a “Virtual Run” in order to conform to the CDC social distancing guidelines necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Virtual Wildflower Run allowed registered participants to compete wherever they could – on the street, in the hills, park, or on a treadmill at home. Run photos submitted to the Wildflower Run social media contest were entered into a drawing for prizes. The Virtual Run will end on May 3. The WFR Committee has been pleased with the community’s response. While registrations were down (430 versus the usual 1000), both the participants and sponsors maintained their support after the shift to a virtual event was announced. AAUW has worked hard to maintain their commitment to the runners. In addition to adding the prize

drawing, several members have contributed time and effort to package and mail or deliver goodie bags, bibs and t-shirts to the participants.

AAUW’s Wildflower Run annually funds local scholarships, community grants, and leadership programs for women and girls. In 2019, AAUW allocated a record \$65,000. With the cancelling of other upcoming non-profit community events (most notably the Mushroom Mardi Gras), these funds will be needed even more in the upcoming year. Although AAUW is confident it will be able to continue to support our community, **we still need your help.** If you have not yet donated to the Wildflower Fund, **please see the next page make a donation! No amount is too small!**



Top left: “Kynzie was so excited to get her swag and do her virtual run!”

Bottom from left to right: **Layla** received a bonus entry in the prize drawing because she ran in costume.

From **Lisa** in Kalamazoo, , "We are in Kalamazoo, MI for the pandemic with my parents and want to thank you for sending us our t-shirts, race bibs, and medals. It was **Duke’s** first race and your package made it special! My parents set up a start and finish line and we notified the neighbors who came out to cheer us on. It will be a special memory."

Emily and **Miriam** said, "We did our Wildflower Run virtually this year —from home!"

Branch member **Sandra** said, "5K walk with my pup! Missed seeing my Wildflower Run buddies in person on race day (and doing the early morning coffee run for the race crew!) But big thanks for this awesome AAUW crew for the effort to put on a successful virtual event! You all rock!! And I love the inspiring painted rocks & tiles I saw on my walk."



**Your gift to the
Wildflower Fund is
needed now more than
ever.**

Wildflower Fund

Because the actual Wildflower Run could not be held this year, income from the event is down significantly. But the need for local scholarships and grants has not changed.

Please donate today to help support equity and education for women and girls. We encourage all members to contribute if they can; no amount is too small.

If you have questions or want more information, contact **Carol O'Hare** at [DONATIONS](#).

You can make your gift:

- **Online through PayPal** with your credit card at www.aauwmh.org. (Scroll down to the bottom and click on the Donate button.)
- **By check** (payable to ISPF-AAUW) and mail to Wildflower Fund, AAUW-MH, P.O. Box 1528, Morgan Hill, CA 95038

Hello from Massachusetts!

In early April Carol O'Hare and Joan Ensign received this email from Katie Brill, a former branch member who now lives in Massachusetts. Katie was new to MH and pregnant with her second child when she joined AAUW in 2002. (Carol and Joan were co-presidents 2002-2004.) Katie quickly became involved, serving as program co-VP with Katie Howard 2003-2004 and again in 2004-2005. She hosted events at her home in the Oak Park neighborhood and was in line to become president before moving to Massachusetts in 2005. She was also the first coordinator of Wine and Whine!

Dear Carol and Joan,

I hope you both remember this long lost AAUW member from back in the early 2000s!

On this cold and rainy day here in Duxbury, MA, I was meandering on my computer on my Covid-19 Furlough Friday and decided to look up AAUW Morgan Hill. No idea why it came into my head to do so, but what a treat to see all of the lovely faces from a special time in my life. I also chuckled when I saw Wine and Whine was still going!! :)

I'm emailing because I felt the need to share that being part of Morgan Hill AAUW was so meaningful and special for me. You all helped me, as a new mother and new member of the community, feel part of a group, part of a community. I still have the cards you all gave me when Eric was born, and I treasure the time I spent with all of you. Seeing all of you still doing your vibrant things in Morgan Hill gave me a big smile today, and I wanted to let you know.

Please pass on my regards to all who might remember me at AAUW, and I will raise a glass for my own Wine and Whine tonight in your honor!

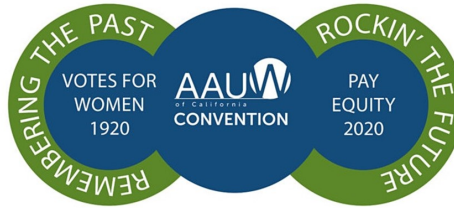
Warm wishes,

Katie Brill

More from Katie—After moving to Massachusetts in 2005, we lived in Plymouth for one year and then settled in Duxbury, which has been a wonderful place to raise our kids. Our daughter, Charlotte, is 19 and is a freshman at Wheaton College in Norton, MA. She's a biology major and music minor for violin and is on the women's rugby team. Our son, Eric, is 17 and a junior at Duxbury High School. He rows crew with Duxbury Bay Maritime School in the fall and spring and is on the wrestling team in the winter. He was a toddler when we left but he's now 6'1"! My husband, Todd is a VP at IBM in Cambridge but luckily works from home most days. As for me, I dabbled in things here and there while the kids were growing up, but I'm now working full time as the Human Resources Generalist at a regional electrical supply company here in New England.



AAUW California Virtual Convention



AAUW California had scheduled its 2020 Convention from Friday, April 17 – Sunday, April 19th at the Westin San Francisco Airport Hotel. The San Jose Branch was the convention planner. The theme: **Remembering the Past, Rocking the Future.**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, AAUW California held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 19th virtually. More than 300 members were in attendance.

The 2019-2020 AAUW California Board Members were recognized and many of them spoke, including our member **Carol Holzgrafe**, Project Oversight.

The Highlights – Our Branch:

Speech Trek Award - **Gelasia Tiwana**, AAUW Morgan Hill's 1st place winner – placed 5th with AAUW California and was awarded \$150.00. Congratulations to Gelasia! The 2020 question was: *Are Men and Women Truly Equal Today or are the Suffragists of 1920 Still Suffering in 2020?*

The question for 2021: *Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls?*

Other Highlights:

Branches were recognized that had 50 plus year anniversaries. Many branches had anniversaries of over 100 years.

The AAUW 5 Star Program – awards for branch programs in alignment with AAUW strategic plan were announced. For more information: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>

The Business Meeting portion was presented by **Jane Niemeier** and **Cathy Foxhoven**, Co-Presidents of AAUW-CA. See details: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2020/04/2020-annual-meeting-presentation.pdf/>

Project Grants – Presented by Carol Holzgrafe


A Message from AAUW National CEO, **Kim Churches**

AAUW Fund – A Tribute to **Jo Harberson**, longtime member who was always seen at state and national conventions. She was a true philanthropist, who was committed to AAUW.

State Named Honoree – **Donna Lilly**

Passing the Gavel from the 2019-2020 Co-Presidents to 2020-2021 incoming President, **Dianne Owens**.

To see the entire presentation – click here: <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2020/04/2020-annual-meeting-presentation.pdf/>



**CONGRATULATIONS
AAUW MORGAN HILL**

**Top 10 CA Branches
in Contributions to
AAUW Fund
(Unrestricted) -**

**Morgan Hill #3
contributing \$21,673**

**Top 10 CA Branches
per Capita -**

**Morgan Hill #8 at
\$126 per member**




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*I can't do much about most of what is happening today and, like everyone else, I get depressed, sad and angry, but I try to remember the legend of Pandora's box and how after all manner of strife, care, hatred, and despair had escaped, **hope** rose like a Phoenix from the ashes*

Life in the Era of Covid-19 Era

This section was originally conceived as a one-time entry to ease the separation of AAUW members who normally meet so regularly and frequently. It may continue in future issues as we learn to modify our shelter-in-place mode and begin to fashion a new normal for ourselves. The following member contributions show how some are coping.

"The Time to Live is Now"

Chris Hopwood

As a retiree, my life hasn't changed as drastically as it has for those who work full-time and/or are raising kids. I am grateful to have forced "do nothing" time and to reflect on whether I have been doing the things I want to do or putting them aside to help others accomplish their "to do" list. I am learning to relinquish the belief that I must multi-task every minute of every day, and I am finally facing the fact that there are only 24 hours in a day and that a certain number of them must be spent cooking, cleaning, doing laundry, and grocery shopping. Then, I must sleep – and I should get enough

otherwise I am useless! Since I have lots of interests I need to manage the time I have to do them. Otherwise, I'll get out in my garden and go for as long as I can physically keep going. But then am too tired to make supper. I get stuck into a good book and I will read until I'm cross-eyed, and go to bed too late. I grew 14 tomato plants from seed and because of that success, I decided to plant more seeds. Now about 50 tomato seedlings are growing presenting the challenge of where to plant them. I promised a Log Cabin quilt for my husband to replace the one I made him in 1996 or 7 and which he has worn out. Another 30 days shelter-in-place is OK with me.

My Stay-at-home Misadventures

Carol O'Hare

My days have had a very different focus from what I envisioned when the stay-at-home order was first announced. I had been planning all the projects that I could accomplish, but then I fell while on a walk, dislocating and fracturing my right ankle. A trip to the ER during the pandemic was "interesting." I was getting around quite well with a walker, when four days later I slipped on the hardwood floor in the kitchen and fell on my left thigh. Another trip to the ER, this time by ambulance. X-rays showed a fracture in my femur near the hip joint. Surgery followed, inserting a rod and pins in my leg and a plate and screws in my ankle.

After ten days at Pacific Hills Manor for rehab, I was very happy to be home (with no Covid-19). My stepdaughter came to stay with me and provided excellent care. I also had the company of Patty Crone, who needed a place to stay while the bathroom in her tiny house was being repaired.

My recovery is progressing well, although I have a ways to go. Getting a cast on my ankle that allows me to put weight on that foot was a big step forward, as was learning to do the stairs

so I could shower (finally!). Mostly now, I can manage on my own.

What have I learned from this experience? Of course, I must be more mindful to avoid future falls. I also appreciate little things previously taken for granted, such as dinner served hot, being able to dress myself, and how wonderful it is to sit outside in the sun, even if I can't go for a walk.

On Easter a stepson coordinated an O'Hare family Zoom gathering that involved four generations, 30 participants in 20 locations, including CA, MN, NC, a grandson in Australia, and my son in New Zealand. It was wonderful to all be together, even if only virtually.



Life in the Era of Covid-19 (cont)

Beyond the Horizon

Jenny R. Redfern

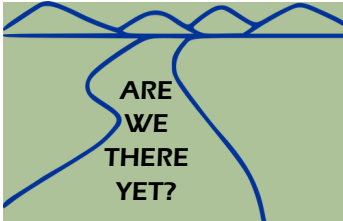
In this time of plague, do you remember any earlier experience when you anticipated something to be over so much that you thought you would crawl out of your skin? I do, about getting to see the Rocky Mountains for the first time when I was thirteen, and about enduring the road trip that would get us to Colorado.

My excitement was focused on the mountains, driven by what I viewed on cowboy TV shows and movies, where the Rockies were probably painted backdrops - or the real California Sierras. I didn't know illusion from reality. My obsession was with the idea of altitude and snow-capped peaks! Steep slopes covered in pine trees and dotted with silver and gold mines. Riders galloping up the foothills, kicking up dust, and splashing through streams. My adolescent imagination worked overtime. I had reached my age of wonder in pancake-flat Illinois, and the idea of going to actual mountains filled me with anticipation as much as would waiting to see men walk on the moon, not that many years later.

I had no idea of what the Rockies would look or feel like. And for that matter, neither did my parents, so pestering them got me nowhere. Black and white photos in the encyclopedia, a few color postcards from friends who had been

there, were all we had to go on. I understood that they would appear before us gradually as we drove west, gaining height as we got closer and closer. For days, I hung over the back of my mother's passenger seat, staring out the front windshield as my father drove us out of Illinois on the new interstate highways, through Missouri and Kansas. All I saw were fields, farms, and small towns, disappointingly much like home. Still the earth was flat. I had studied the roadmap in detail, and my overworked imagination convinced me that we should be able to see the tops of the peaks while we drove through Kansas. And as soon as we crossed the border into Colorado, those mountains would hit us smack in the eyes. Thus, I drove my parents nuts with constant misidentification of clouds as mountain tops. I despaired of ever seeing the exciting conclusion when the car would stop and my dad would announce that we had arrived in wonderland.

Why do I bother with this memory now? Because that sense of uncontrolled anticipation, of wanting so badly for a trip to be over, of not knowing how long it will take to see the goal, of feeling this is all taking far too long, of being frustrated and on the verge of boredom for days on end - this feels like right here and now.





WEB SITE!

www.aauwmh.org

 Send suggestions & updates to

Sandy Stooob



Patricia Kindred

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Life in the Era of Covid-19 (cont)



Hunkering Down With The Hansells **Kathy Hansell**

We are filling our days with walks in the garden. Our daughter calls them field trips. For the chilly days, we have invented some indoor aerobic games. One of our favorites we have dubbed Cutie Catch. All you need is the aforementioned citrus and a partner. We have found this game to be frequently hilarious, especially when we have more misses than catches. Then we giggle uncontrollably, counting that as aerobic.

We do also find time to wax poetic:

*Spring has sprung,
The grass has riz,
I wonder where the flowers iz?*
(Anonymous)

OR another favorite:

*For thy sweet love remembered such wealth brings,
That then I scorn to change
my state with kings.*
(Shakespeare, Sonnet 29)



Spring forward! Stay well.

Reflections on the Current Pandemic **Suman Ganapathy**

We got our first whiff of impending times on February 29, when, bowing down to the uncertainty all around, we made the gut-wrenching decision to cancel our trip to visit family in India. It erased a year of planning and coordination, and we wondered if the decision was the right one. As it turned out, it was an incredibly prescient one.

As we shelter at home in Morgan Hill during this pandemic, maintaining a sense of perspective, making positive contributions to the community, and keeping science and logic to the forefront in the face of conflicting perspectives have been my overarching objectives. I am grateful to have the company of my husband and daughter and even as I miss my son in Oakland, at least he is nearby. Bonding with them and their ubiquitous positive vibes in this lightning-paced changing world has been an unexpected boon during these Shelter-in-Place orders. I am also appreciative of all the much-maligned technology (Zoom, FaceTime, WhatsApp, etc.) that's ironically helped us work and stay connected in these times of social distancing. It isn't perfect, but it is a delightful alternative. I know we will all always remember these times of AAUW Zoom Afternoon and Evening book club meetings and Friday Writers sharing.

Observing nature recuperate while thousands have lost their lives has been both humbling

and a startling glimpse into the power we human beings wield. I am cognizant of the fact that even as our world has been brought to our knees by a virulent microbe, the extent of our influence on nature is crystal-clear with evidence that we can reverse global warming if we try. It gives me hope for better days ahead after the pandemic is over.

Of course, some days have been harder than others. Overwhelming global bad news and millions of job losses highlight the inequity and inequality of resources and tragedies. Accepting that meticulous planning and control might need a temporary hiatus has been tough. A friend's unexpected passing, fears for the future, and being homebound in self-quarantine in the absence of testing, with weeks of the uncertainty of possible exposure to the virus, were tough. Even after the danger passed, I found long-dormant introverted facets within me reawakened, and it has been an unexpected sidebar. Helping out where possible, maintaining a journal, trying out other creative outlets, staying in touch with friends and family, and remembering to retain my sense of humor have helped.

Meanwhile, we still have uncertain days ahead, even as some states have "reopened" and others are planning how to do so systematically and logically. 'One day at a time' is probably the best mantra these days. May we have good days soon.



Life in the Era of Covid-19 (cont)

Sandra Scott of AAUW Auburn is the author of the following article. With Sandra's permission **Sherrie Wren** submitted it for this series. We are very appreciative to both Sandra and Sherrie.

19th Amendment: Suffragists and the 1918 Pandemic

In 1918 – several months before the 19th amendment was passed by Congress – the world was fighting a “great flu pandemic”. It was also an election year.

Flu-like illnesses were first detected in March 1918 and occurred in three waves through 1919. When World War I ended in November 1918, soldiers returned home carrying a virus that spread worldwide during 1918-1919. With no vaccine to protect against influenza infection and no antibiotics to treat secondary bacterial infections, control efforts worldwide were limited to non-pharmaceutical interventions such as isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants, and limitations of public gatherings, which were applied unevenly.

The combination of World War I and the 1918 flu pandemic brought greater numbers of women into the workforce as nurses and factory workers, providing them with more economic power than in the past. As horrific as these two worldwide events were, the gender boost, often ascribed to World War I alone, would have been far less pronounced without the 1918 flu.

Throughout the 1918 pandemic, suffragists continued to campaign for passage of women's suffrage despite facing setbacks and frustration. On October 1, 1918, after a speech by Woodrow Wilson to the Senate supporting a women's suffrage amendment, the Senate failed. On October 10, 1918 New Orleans Times-

Picayune article titled *Influenza Mars Suffrage Plans*, states: “Everything conspires against woman suffrage,” one local suffragist said Wednesday. “Now it is the influenza which is trying to prevent a spread of suffrage doctrine, but obedient to the demands of the health authorities the suffragists will refrain from public gatherings.”

Nevertheless, these suffragists were determined to stay focused on getting the vote for women. As we now know, the 66th Congress took up the bill, and it was passed June 4, 1919. The 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920 and signed into law on August 26.

The similarities between the 1918 pandemic and today's Covid-19 pandemic are stunning 100+ years later, and the bravery of the suffragists was remarkable. Now the question remains, has the purpose of the women's suffrage movement been fulfilled? The answer is yes, if it was only about women voting. However, the purpose of the movement was more far reaching – gender parity for women. There is still a gender gap for women as elected officials and in corporate leadership, in pay, and education biases.

We still have a lot of work to do.



Celebrating
100
years of
Women's Right to Vote

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