



MORGAN HILL (CA) BRANCH



The Wildflower

President's Message

Marian Sacco, President

Fall is certainly in the air today! Since August AAUW Morgan Hill has been reading, teaching, and celebrating our "Women's Right to Vote", the 19th Amendment Centennial. Now, in the final days before the election, I know you are engaged in helping to make 2020 a record-breaking voter turn-out. It is not just a vote for our state and national representatives, but our California propositions require thoughtful evaluation and consideration. Go, Women and Girls!



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Our 38th annual Wildflower Run is in the planning stages to continue the legacy in the "virtual world of 2021". This virtual run will happen from **March 19 to March 28**, and you can run or walk anywhere! On **March 28**, our scheduled run morning, a grand finale "virtual event" is in development.

Our Sponsor Team is getting ready to reach out to our very committed businesses introducing the exciting new logo for 2021 which is shown at left. This design was chosen from over 20 design submissions and is based on a design by Bikala Roberson of North Carolina.

We have a target date of opening registration on **December 1st** and we will need lots of talent from our membership to make this virtual event fun and exciting. Please keep watching the weekly email and "**answer the call**" for help.

The great news is everyone can register, participate, and volunteer to help in 2021. We will be reaching out to all AAUW branches nationally, and an extensive social media campaign is planned. Special videos will feature both sponsors and scholarship girls and women, including Speech and Tech Trek. The media campaign is to "kick-off" in February, so many different jobs to do!

Please consider helping with the important and "Once a Year" fund-raising event for our Morgan Hill branch to allocate money to scholarships and engagement of our local young people. There is an even greater need in 2021 than in past years.

I would like to wish everyone a happy, enjoyable, and safe time as we gather with family to celebrate Thanksgiving and the Holidays.



**Educate
Inspire
Engage &
Invite new
members**

Membership

Kathy Hansell & Sherrie Wren, Co-VPs

We currently have 156 members in our branch. Sadly, 19 members did not renew before the fall deadline. Now may not seem like a good time to talk to your neighbors, friends, and even people in the grocery line, about joining AAUW. But a lot of people are dispirited and may well enjoy getting involved with AAUW’s programs to mentor and encourage young women and girls to fulfill their potential.

Anyone who has a lead on a prospective new member, please let Kathy Hansell or Sherrie Wren know, and they will help you “close the deal”.



2021 – 2022 Board Candidates

CHECK OUT OUR

WEB SITE!
www.aauwmh.org
Send suggestions
& updates to
[Sandy Stoob](mailto:Sandy.Stoob)

The Leadership Development Team will soon begin its search for branch leaders for the 2020-2021 year. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in being more involved with AAUW Morgan Hill board, please contact Maggie Leininger by email at leadership@aauwmh.org by **December 1st** with your recommendations.

Getting The Word Out

Amina Khemici



All of us depend on the weekly email blasts to keep us informed and apprised of AAUW events and programs as well as upcoming activities in the wider community. Monica McClintock and Joy Safakish have been the “masters” of this universe for several months. Now a new member is joining the team as Joy is taking on other branch responsibilities. Please welcome **Darcy Foster** (photo at left) who will be helping Monica collect and collate all the weekly news you need to keep you current with what is going on.

How do non-AAUW members find out about our branch’s events and programs? Social media is one way, and to this end **Amina Khemici** (left top) will be using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social media to help spread the word about AAUW Morgan Hill branch activities. **Rina Sutaria** (bottom left) will take care of posts concerning National and California AAUW.



Rina Sutaria

We must not overlook the importance of print media like Morgan Hill & Gilroy Life, Morgan Hill Times, South Valley Magazine, and others. **Patrice Lyn** (photo at right) is assuming the role of Publicity Chair and will be responsible for coordinating all branch announcements and news releases and articles about specific events and programs. Each news outlet has differing lead times and it’s important to plan ahead to ensure that AAUW will be given space.



Philanthropy Awards



Congratulations to **Pat Toombs** for being named this year's honoree for the Morgan Hill Community Foundation Philanthropy award from our AAUW branch. The award is given to members of local organizations who have given of their time, treasure, and talent to benefit our local community.

This well-deserved award goes to Pat for her outstanding work as Director of our annual fundraiser, the Wildflower Run, for two years. During her term as director the Run made above-average profits that were used for local scholarships, community grants, and other AAUW programs.

Pat's leadership, organization, and innovative ideas grew the Wildflower Run to a first of over 1,000 runners.

She continues sharing her talent and time as secretary of the AAUW board and as a member of the Leadership team.

This year's awards ceremony will be virtual, but members can join, without cost, in the celebration by logging onto the link carried in our weekly branch email news blast.

Marilyn Pifer is another branch member who is a Philanthropy Honoree. She has been selected by the Poppy Jasper International Film Festival.



AAUW-MH Fall Programs

Yvonne Randolph, VP Programs

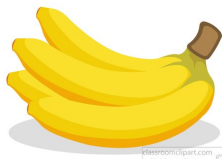
The following programs will be conducted via Zoom. Please check the weekly announcements for the correct information to join the meeting. These programs are free to all. Please invite your friends to join the meeting.

November 24: Saskia Wilson-Brown, New Directions in the Creation of Scents



For many years the creation of perfumes has been limited to a small insular group of manufacturers. The rise of independent, self-taught craft perfumers and artists are taking the creation of perfumes to a level of personalization and artistic expression some are calling an olfactory renaissance. Saskia Wilson-Brown will talk about this new direction and the artists and craftspeople leading the way.

December 22: Lenore Newman, Culinary Historian



People love some foods into extinction. During this holiday season, when you're tempted to eat another piece of fudge, take a moment to think about what you would be eating if there was no more chocolate. People have faced similar choices before. Lenore Newman will talk about culinary extinction in this sure to be entertaining talk.



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Wildflower Fund Allocations

Eliabeth Mandel, Allocations Chair



The branch has approved an allocation of \$50,000 from our Wildflower Fund. The allocation comprises 2020 run proceeds, corporate sponsorships, and individual donations. Our ability to raise so much in support of AAUW and of our community—despite the last-minute conversion of the 2020 Run to a "virtual" event—is a reflection of both the strong support by our corporate sponsors of our mission and the resilience and creativity of our members in salvaging our event. Thank you all!

As usual, our allocations include an impressive array of local scholarships, community action grants in support of local non-profit organizations, STEM programs such as Tech Trek camperships for middle school girls, and leadership programs such as the Speech Trek and the Young Women's Leadership Conference. Also, we continue to generously support the national AAUW Fund.

Notable changes from last year include:

- Due to Covid-19 we will not send a woman to Leadership Morgan Hill in 2020-21.
- We will expand our Local Scholarships to include a scholarship for a student graduating from the Morgan Hill Adult School and planning to attend college.
- To give the branch additional funding flexibility and increase our reserve funds given Covid-19 and other unforeseeable factors, the allocation to AAUW national was reduced from last year's record allocation.

Click [here](#) for more details.

www.aauw.org

Community Action
Grants: AAUW

Community Action Grants

Susan Rife, CAG Chair

Applications for Community Action Grants for 2021 are now open on the AAUW Morgan Hill web site under the Philanthropy tab, with a Dec. 15, 2020, deadline. (<http://www.aauwmh.org/grants/>)

The Allocations Committee has set aside \$7,000 for grants for the coming year. Grants are available for up to \$1,000 to local non-profit organizations requesting funding for a specific program or expense that is in alignment with AAUW's mission. Organizations may submit funding applications for more than one project or application, but separate applications are required for each.

For 2020, \$7,000 in grants were awarded to Community Solutions, the Morgan Hill Peace Project, Literary Legacies, BookSmart Community Advantage, Learning and Loving Education Center, Discovery Counseling Center, Poppy Jasper International Film Festival, Britton Middle School, and P.A. Walsh STEAM Academy

 T R A V E L E D G E <small>FORMERLY WORLDVIEW TRAVEL</small>	 Patricia Kindred <small>INTERNATIONAL LEISURE TRAVEL ADVISOR</small> Morgan Hill California, 95037 D (408) 778-1025 M (408) 219-8214 E pkindred@jps.net <small>CST#1609876-10</small>
	<small>www.traveledge.com</small> <small>VIRTUOSO MEMBER.</small>

AAUW-MH Local Scholarships – Adult Ed



Donna Dicker, Scholarships

At the recent Allocations committee meeting, the group approved a \$500 scholarship for women who will be graduating from the Adult Ed program with their GED and transitioning to college.

Vicky Reader, chair of the Re-entry/Deferred Entry scholarship, has posted the application and description for this new scholarship, which will be under her direction, on our branch website.

Adult Ed and Community Education principal, Shannon Lane, is enthusiastic about this new scholarship for her students, observing that these women represent a greatly underserved section of our local population.

The Local Scholarship team looks forward to awarding the initial scholarship in the Spring of 2021.

AAUW San Jose Local Scholarship Fundraiser



GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

AAUW San Jose Local Scholarship

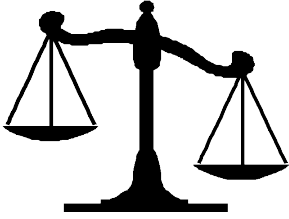
Holiday Campaign Committee 2020 scholarships@aauwsanjose.org

Let's wrap up this year of virtual gatherings by joining together to support the December 1-5, 2020 San Jose Holiday Campaign to raise money for our Local Scholarship Program. Our Holiday Boutique has always been a joyful and inspiring community and member event. By participating in this year's **first-time-ever online campaign** and supporting the local college women who need us, we can experience the same satisfaction of coming together to fulfill our AAUW mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, advocacy, and education.

You can still "fill a basket" with the gift women students need now more than ever: a 4-year college **degree that can lead to wider career opportunities, future professional success, self-confidence, economic stability**, and a lifetime connection to AAUW. The price tag of a college education has more than doubled over the past generation, and women take about 2 years longer than men to repay student loans. The more we give in scholarships the less these students will need to borrow. Donating will be easy and fun and will include special features such as:

- ◆ A matching fund that **doubles** your donation up to \$5000
- ◆ Exceptional prizes: 2-night Santa Cruz Harbor vacation package, king-size hand-stitched quilt, gourmet wine gifts from Joseph George Winery, fused-glass jewelry, and hand-woven scarves

In 2020 we gave over \$100,000 in scholarships averaging \$5,000 to 22 students. Celebrate the holidays and ring in the New Year by supporting the exceptional women in 2021 who, against all odds, are determined to obtain a college education. Donating to our Local Scholarship Holiday campaign will be easy, and supporting our Local Scholarship program will keep you smiling all year long. Save the dates **December 1-5**. Tell all your friends and family members about the campaign. Details of how to access the Campaign page on our [branch website](#) will be published in the December Bonfire. **Join the fundraising and give the gift of education!**



AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund

Janet Wright, LAF Chair

In August 2020, AAUW adopted the case of *Glasson v. Google*. Glasson joined Google in 2014. She was repeatedly recognized for her many accomplishments, told her performance was high and was awarded promotions, raises, and bonuses. However, in 2018, she began to notice a pattern of discrimination by her manager against pregnant employees who reported to her. They were not receiving the same recognition and favor as other employees. The manager would make comments such as the employee was “...likely pregnant...again” and that such employees “should leave Google and go to work for a lower-tier company.”

Glasson spoke up against this discrimination and reported it to HR. HR recognized the inappropriate behavior but refused to stop it. Glasson’s manager took retaliatory action against her, including interviewing other managers to replace her. When Glasson announced that she was pregnant, the harassment against Glasson increased until the stress of the situation forced her to transfer off the team into a management role with another team with reduced responsibility. Google then explicitly stated that she would be given no management responsibilities while she was pregnant as it would stress out her team.

This treatment worsened when Glasson was diagnosed with a life-threatening pregnancy-related condition. This required her to take an earlier maternity leave as she was hospitalized. Glasson made several attempts to reconcile with Google but they refused to acknowledge their wrongdoing. She filed suit in the Superior Court of Washington State, claiming violation of Washington’s Law Against Discrimination.

AAUW will support Glasson in her fight against pregnancy discrimination.

Young Women Leaders Update

Margaret McCann



Diya Kandra

Diya Kandra is a junior at Sobrato High School and has been active in the Young Women Leaders (YWLs) for four years. As an 8th grader, she was a participant at the leadership conference and joined as a team member in her freshman year of high school.

This year she started a Morgan Hill branch of Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action (SVYCA), and with the other student members created an extremely successful debate for all of the candidates for Morgan Hill City Council. Also with SVYCA, this past summer she did state advocacy for CA Assembly climate-related bills.

With her friend Gelasia Tiwana, Diya was active in the South Bay chapter of the international organization Ma(s)king a Difference. They made 149 homemade masks for community members and frontline workers.

Additional activities include an internship with the Morgan Hill Environmental Dept. where she created a video on composting based on CA state law, Youth Team Leader of Silicon Valley South chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby, and participating in the Sobrato School Environmental Club, WAVE. Also, she is a drum major in the Sobrato School marching band.

Unsurprisingly, Diya envisions an environmental-related career path oriented to policy or science



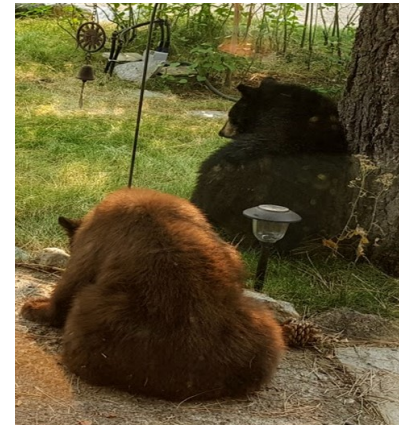
Friendship News

Jill Paveza, Friendship



Jill, John, and Drew Paveza tried to escape the smoke by hiding out in a cabin at Lake Tahoe in September. However, after a few days the smoke cleared in Morgan Hill but became increasingly unhealthy in the mountains. So, back home they came, but not after seeing some bear cubs outside the cabin window.

Inger Govin has moved from Morgan Hill to San Clemente, CA to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren. Now she has an ocean view for wonderful sunsets!



Suman and Gautam Ganapathy celebrated their 30th anniversary in Santa Barbara where they relaxed, explored the area and enjoyed wine-tasting at several local wineries.



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Happy Thanksgiving



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

