



MORGAN HILL
(CA) BRANCH



The Wildflower

President's Message

Marian Sacco, President

As we look forward to 2021 with hope and renewed energy, we should not sweep 2020 under the rug entirely. Our 2020 accomplishments were many despite the virus, wildfires, and zoom challenges. We should all commend ourselves for doing so well. Now we can build on our experiences.

At least for the foreseeable future all our events will be held via Zoom. Mark your calendars for our Monthly Programs as noted below, and the Wildflower Run on Sunday, March 28. **Find a way to get involved and help make the 2021 Run a success. See page 3 for more information.**

In the latter part of 2020, our Monthly Programs covered unusual and interesting topics. An unforeseen benefit of hosting the programs via Zoom is that they are recorded and may be watched at any time for those who missed the actual meeting. *Composing Soundtracks for Video Games* (September); *New Directions in the Creation of Scents* (November), and *Culinary Extinction* (December) are available on the AAUW-MH Facebook page. We will continue this practice in 2021.

Happy New Year!

"Hope smiles through the threshold of the year to come, whispering, 'It will be happier'. — Alfred Lord Tennyson



MONTHLY PROGRAM DATES

Tuesday, January 26th – Covid-19 Testing & Vaccine Rollout with a Speaker from Santa Clara County Public Health

Tuesday, February, 23rd – Speech Trek Competition
Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls? Details on page 2

Sunday, March 28th – Special Wildflower Run Program

Watch for more details in the weekly email blast or email Yvonne Randolph at programs@aauwmh.org

Remember—if you miss a program you can catch it on AAUW-MH Facebook page

Inside this issue:

Membership	2
Speech Trek	2
Wildflower Run & Sponsor Update	3
Wildflower Fund Appeal	4
Communications Team	5
AAUW Fund & Public Policy	5
Tech Trek	6
Friendship	7





Membership

Kathy Hansell & Sherrie Wren, Co-VPs
(membership@aaumh.org)

Please welcome **Wendy Miller** as the latest member of our branch. She has a BBA with a major in International Marketing from the University of North Texas in Denton, TX.

Wendy is a self-employed IT Project Manager. She will assist our branch with social media, computer skills, website support, and Wildflower Run publicity. She joined AAUW for fellowship and opportunities for giving back.

A huge thank you to Lori Mains for steering Wendy to Morgan Hill AAUW!

Speech Trek 2021

Joanne Rooney, Speech Trek Coordinator
(spechtrek@aaumh.org)

Speech Trek Topic:

"Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls?"

On **Tuesday, February 23 at 7 pm**, AAUW-MH will hold the 2021 Speech Trek competition for high school students via Zoom.

Contestants will be judged on content, delivery, and organization. This year members of Toastmasters will be asked to judge the competition as AAUW members may not serve in this capacity.

A video of the Morgan Hill student who takes first place will be sent to AAUW CA Speech Trek for judging. The top three in the state will be invited to compete at the AAUW CA annual meeting in April.

The following volunteers are needed:

1. A Zoom expert to help Joanne
2. Coaches
3. Two timers.

If you can help, please email Joanne at spechtrek@aaumh.org.

If you know any high school students who live or attend school in Morgan Hill, please encourage them to apply! Go to www.aaumh.org/speech-trek for applications and information, and be sure to watch former Speech Trekkers make their case in two very short videos! <https://youtu.be/meOscxCF2qs> and <https://youtu.be/AlvJEvcyOV8>.

A Video is Worth 1,000 Words

The branch is making short videos, 30-45 seconds in length, to help publicize our programs and events. The "stars" of these videos will be Tech Trek girls, Young Women Leaders, and former scholarship and Speech Trek winners. The women and girls will talk about their connection with the branch and how AAUW helped them reach educational or personal goals. Take a look at two sample videos made by former Speech Trek winners here <https://youtu.be/meOscxCF2qs> and <https://youtu.be/AlvJEvcyOV8>.



**AAUW California
Speech Trek**



Wildflower Run Blooms Virtually this Year - with a growing need for your support!



Elizabeth Mandel, wfr@aauwmh.org

The success of the Wildflower Run and our ability to sustain our support for women and girls is more important than ever in 2021.

All runs across the country are now virtual events, and we need to set our event apart from all the others to attract maximum runner registrations. We urgently need you to familiarize yourself with the Run plans and talk up our [virtual event](#) to everyone you know. **Encourage friends, neighbors, and family to register.** Consider creating and registering as a member of a [virtual team](#), drawing in friends and family nearby and across the country. Tell everyone what is special about **OUR** virtual event:

- ◆ The Wildflower Run is an all-volunteer non-profit-event. Every penny raised goes to our causes. Most large running events are managed by for-profit run management organizations.
- ◆ All funds raised support gender equity for women and girls. Locally, we provide community grants, scholarships, and leadership programs for women and girls. Nationally, AAUW provides fellowships, research, advocacy, and more.
- ◆ Everyone is eligible for a wide range of [prizes](#). You don't have to be the fastest! There will be special prizes for teams, costumes, and more.
- ◆ Our unique "swag" includes annual limited-edition t-shirts (guaranteed in your size for the first 400 registrations), bonus baby-tees for stroller riders, and coordinated medals for youth in all events.
- ◆ We will provide special support for our runners such as using a running app and route recommendations, for example.

REGISTRATION is now available!

Look for our extensive social media campaign starting January 1. Follow the Wildflower Run on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

Wildflower Run Sponsors Update

Amy Whelan, sponsors@wildflowerrun.org

The Wildflower Run's virtual format for March 2021 hasn't slowed down the Sponsor Committee! Because AAUW continues to fund scholarships for girls and women, no matter the circumstances we all face, the committee persists. Our annual Wildflower Run is our only fundraising event and a staple in Morgan Hill's community calendar. Even though we are switching to a virtual Run format this year, the Sponsor Committee is actively pursuing and counting on event sponsors, runner registrations, and AAUW members to meet 2021 funding goals. As of this writing, we have \$4,000 in sponsor donations. A very warm thank you for their continued support! We believe that past sponsors will continue to support our mission, even without an in-person run. The Sponsor Committee meets monthly and welcomes any leads to add to our roster of local organizations and businesses we'll be contacting in the coming weeks. Please contact **Barbara Palmer** or **Amy Whelan**, sponsors@wildflowerrun.org, with any questions or leads.

Wildflower Fund Annual Giving Campaign

Janet Wright, Member Donations Team



Each year we ask our members to contribute 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. We also make grants to local nonprofits whose needs have increased this year due to the effects of the pandemic. The Fund includes donations from members like you, contributions from Wildflower Run corporate sponsors, and proceeds from the Run.

In 2020 members donated a total of \$13,820, **but with your help, we can reach or exceed that amount this year. We are setting an ambitious goal of raising \$16,000 for the Wildflower Fund in 2021.**

This year your donation is crucially important.

The 2021 Wildflower Run will be virtual and we anticipate proceeds from registrations will be down. We hope that our corporate sponsors will continue to support us, although we know that these are difficult times for businesses. For these reasons, we are asking members who have given in the past, to donate again and consider increasing their gift.

Members who have not contributed before, we encourage you to donate this year.

No gift is too small.

Your donation may qualify as a charitable tax deduction. Be sure to check with your employer about matching your gift.

It is easy to check out if your employer will match your donation. Go to Charity Navigator <https://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=content.view&cpid=1799> and enter your employer's name. If your employer matches donations, you will find a link to the information. Some companies will even provide grants if an employee volunteers for a nonprofit or participates in a run to raise money! Don't miss this opportunity to increase your gift.

You may make your donation by:

- 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
- 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@aauwmh.org.



Building the Communications Team

The AAUW-MH Communications Team is growing! Please welcome “newish” member **Kim Gardner**. Kim is training to become editor of our newsletter while **Chris Hopwood** will continue to do the layout. Kim spent many years in Silicon Valley as a technical writer and editor. She has a BA in Journalism and experience in public relations, visitor services, marketing, and media relations.

Other members of the Communications Team are: Darcy Foster and Monica McKinnon, Weekly Email Blasts; Patrice Lynn, Publicity & Media; Amina Khemici and Rina Sutariaa, Social Media.

AAUW Fund Luncheons

Peggy Martin, AAUW Fund VP
fund@aauumh.org



Each October, AAUW Fund Luncheons take place at the Danville Country Club. I’ve had the privilege of attending these luncheons for many years. Our Branch is a strong supporter of the AAUW Fund, and these lunches are a rewarding opportunity to hear some of the recipients of the AAUW California Fellow/Grant awards speak of their work and their passions. Additionally, attending these luncheons provides the opportunity to meet with AAUW members from other Northern California branches. Typically, two luncheons are held each year: one in Northern California and one in Southern California.

Due to the COVID Pandemic, this year’s October 10th and 24th luncheons were virtual. In total, there were 19 presenters between the two luncheons.

The recipients this year are advocates for many of the public policy causes and concerns that AAUW supports. Among the diverse topics were: **Agriculture/Climate Change; Plant Ecology; Land Redistribution; Low-income Single Mothers of Color; DACA/Immigration; Women’s Health Care; Accessible Health Care for College Students; Organizing Against Sexual Violence Toward LBT Women; Black Women and Politics, Democracy and Democratization**, and many more.

One example of the diversity and passion of AAUW grant award recipients was Allison Huynh, who grabbed my attention as she spoke of her counseling services work with cancer survivors and caregivers

The AAUW California web site has posted videos of the luncheons and brief synopses of each recipient’s work. Learn more about all the recipients at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-fund-luncheons/>

Public Policy: Human Trafficking

Maggie Leininger, Public Policy Chair
publicpolicy@aauumh.org

January 11, 2021 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. AAUW California supports efforts to combat Human Trafficking, as noted in our Public Policy Priorities: “Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including ...human trafficking...in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities...”

Human Trafficking is the third-largest organized criminal activity in the world. It is a modern-day form of slavery, with an estimated number of victims in the millions. Whether for labor or sex, men, women, and children are manipulated through force, fraud, and coercion.

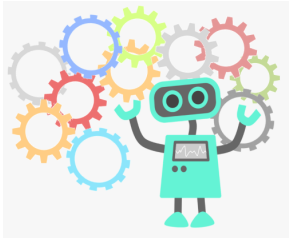
If you are interested to learn more, join Santa Cruz County Branch on January 11, 2021 at 1pm for a Zoom webinar. Access their branch website <https://santacruz-ca.aauw.net/> for more information and an invitation to this event.





Tech Trek Virtual STEM Camps 2021

Joy Safakish, Tech Trek Coordinator
 techtrek@aauwmh.org



Tech Trek, the week-long math-science camp for girls sponsored by AAUW CA, will be entirely virtual in 2021. Several camps will take place between mid-June and early August throughout the state. The main focus is on robotics, assisted by trained AAUW members. Because internet access is necessary, AAUW CA will provide a computer and Wi-Fi hotspot to campers as needed. Branches are being asked to recruit AAUW volunteers for the roles of Social Coaches, Build Coaches, and Peer (youth) Coaches. Training will be provided.

Each morning, campers will have a robotics course where they will develop a project throughout the week to showcase on the final day. Afternoons will be devoted to other workshops and inspirational speakers. There will be more workshops some evenings and time for socializing. There's a high staff to camper ratio of 1:3 to ensure engagement and success for both campers and coaches. Email **Joy Safakish** if you are interested in volunteering as a coach or want to learn more.



Holiday Gift of Reading

AAUW and Friends of the Library supported **BookSmart's** annual Gift of Reading program that collected new books for children at P.A. Walsh and San Martin Guinn schools. Thanks to **Margaret McCann, Margo Hinnenkamp, Karen MacDonald, and Carol O'Hare**, who sorted and boxed 500 books that had been stored in Margaret's garage. Special thanks to **Cinda Meister** and Brad Jones at BookSmart for coordinating the collection and distribution of the books.

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Brian and Katie Howard
 Owners

Friendship News

Happy

New

Year!



Jill Paveza, Friendship

It seems as if the good news may be slowly overtaking the bad. Not that we don't have a long way to go until we can resume getting together with family and friends, and even travel again.

Thanks to the generosity of **Pat Toombs** and her family, many of us enjoyed catching up when we were able to harvest persimmons on November 14 in her orchard.

Greg and **Chris Hopwood** escaped to Pajaro Dunes the first week in November to enjoy the sea air and beach walks. Balmy weather and few people made for a very relaxing time.

Karen Parks and her husband Michael are featured in the MH Historical Society's 2020 "Stories from the Past," along with several other longtime local residents. Karen has been an AAUW member since 1985. Watch the video here <https://vimeo.com/487373472>. Branch member **Robin Shepherd** directed and produced the film.



May all members of AAUW Morgan Hill have a happy and healthy New Year, and reunite safely in 2021.

TRAVEL EDGE

FORMERLY WORLDVIEW TRAVEL

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