



MORGAN HILL (CA) BRANCH



The Wildflower

Wildflower Run 2021

Elizabeth Mandel, WFR Publicity

We Need You, All Branch Members, to Support the Wildflower Run Now!

The 2021 Wildflower Run is scheduled as a virtual event for March 20-28. While you may not have been asked to support the Run in your usual volunteer capacity this year, we still need your engagement and support.

Here's how can you help:

Talk up the Run with friends and family. Emphasize that we are an all-volunteer event and that 100% of proceeds make a difference in our community. Highlight the benefits: everyone is eligible for [prizes](#), unique tee-shirts, medals for kids, bonus baby-tees. **Best of all—it's FUN!!** Direct them to our website, WildflowerRun.org.

Register yourself and your family. Have you wanted to participate but needed to volunteer on race day? Now is your chance! We have attractive family rates, bonus prizes for teams, and discounts for groups of 10 or more. Connect with far-flung friends or family. **Remember—this can be a fun time for everybody!**

Donate unused gift cards toward prizes. We are purchasing prizes from local restaurants and businesses. Your donation can help reduce our expenses. Contact **Suman** at prizes@WildflowerRun.org.

Augment our social media campaign. During this pandemic, social media is more important than ever. Follow the Wildflower Run on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#). Comment on our posts and share them.

Read and share the article

[WILDFLOWER RUN ADAPTS TO PANDEMIC](#) featured in South Valley Magazine



Ask not what AAUW can do for you. Ask what you can do to support Morgan Hill Wildflower Run Wildflower Fund

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Special Wildflower Run Program - Tuesday, March 16th—7:00 to 9:00 pm
Speaker: Dr. Stephanie Howe, ultra-marathoner, coach and sports nutritionist
"Nutrition is at the core of health and happiness, and an integral part of everyday life."



More information can be found on Dr. Howe's [website](#). Watch for more details in the weekly email or contact Yvonne Randolph at programs@aauwmh.org

President's Message

From the AAUW Board of Directors:

“The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW’s bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to the educational attainment of all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.”

Marian Sacco, President

(president@aauwmh.org)

“I see trees so green, red roses too...And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.” But for many, especially women, the last year has been full of tremendous challenges at home and in the workplace. AAUW has led and continues the fight for fair pay and economic opportunity for women in support of our mission: Gender Equity and Economic Security.

From April 7 through May 17, 2021, a critical member vote will be taking place titled “Open Membership and Inclusion”. The intent is to begin to include members with diverse backgrounds and perspectives to meet our mission and address society’s needs today. It will eliminate the current educational requirements. Voting for Open Membership and Inclusion will allow new members with diverse backgrounds and alternate pathways to education. The result will be that the AAUW Vision of Equity for All will be reflected in our membership.

The Morgan Hill Branch has had many discussions about opening membership. With this National member election, it is now time to evaluate and discuss the pros and cons of this topic, so every branch member is prepared to make a decision. Therefore, before voting we will schedule a meeting in late March, to address branch questions.

For more information, please go here:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/open-membership-toolkit/>

Finally, please **VOTE!** All voting will take place **online** between April 7th and May 17th **unless** a member sends a request to AAUW for a paper ballot. Members without an email address on file with AAUW national will receive notification of the vote by mail.

SAVE THE DATE for the **California AAUW virtual annual meeting on April 17, 2021** from 9:30 to 12:30. Look for details in upcoming weekly email.

Annual Wildflower Fund Member Giving Campaign

Carol O'Hare, Members Donations Chair

(donations@aauwmh.org)

Support equity and education for women and girls.

The Wildflower Fund Campaign ends on March 28 (the last day of the virtual Wildflower Run). Our thanks to the many members who have already made contributions, as we work toward our ambitious goal of raising \$16,000. To date, we are still only half way there. We encourage all members to give; no amount is too small.

This year your donation is needed more than ever; income from the Run itself and from corporate sponsors is expected to be much less than previous years. Your gift will help support local scholarships and grants, Tech Trek, leadership programs, and national AAUW priorities.

As a bonus, members who make a donation of \$100 or more may receive a 2020 Wildflower Run t- shirt. These unique shirts were designed to celebrate the AAUW Mission and the Women’s Right to Vote Centennial.

Thank you for your support.

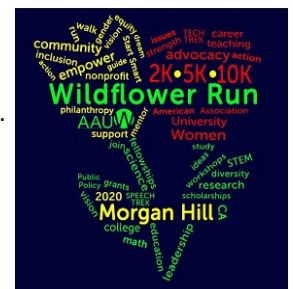


Please donate NOW.

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. (Scroll down to the bottom and click on the **Donate** button.)





Membership Update

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

Please welcome new member **Yvonne Martinez Beltran**.

Yvonne is Morgan Hill City Council District B representative and has served as Mayor Pro Tempore. She has a degree in Urban Planning, and Housing & Economic Development.

The upcoming membership year runs from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. In mid-March all Branch members will be contacted to remind them to renew their memberships.

National dues will increase \$3 for the 2021-22 membership year. The Branch total annual dues will be \$107: \$62 National (\$59 is tax-deductible for 2021), \$20 State, and \$25 Branch.

Election of Officers for 2021 – 2022



The Leadership Development Team/ Nominating Committee would like to present the proposed slate of officers for the 2021-2022 year. Because of the impact Covid restrictions have had on our branch activities, the Nominating Committee proposes that our current board stay on for next year.

- President: Marian Sacco
- President Elect: Suman Ganapathy
- Treasurer/CFO: Tessy Albin
- VP Programs: Yvonne Randolph & Maggie Leininger
- VP Membership: Kathy Hansell & Sherrie Wren
- Secretary: Pat Toombs
- AAUW Fund: Peggy Martin

The Nominating Committee is also asking for any additional nominations “from the floor”. If you would like to be considered for an elected board position, please contact **Maggie Leininger, publicpolicy@aauwmh.org**, by March 15th to be included in this process.

Weekly Email Announcement Guidelines

Monica McClintock, Email Manager
(email@aauwmh.org)

We hope you are enjoying the weekly email and that you find it useful. Darcy Foster and I are responsible for sending AAUW Morgan Hill members announcements of upcoming events and interest groups’ current schedule. Of course, due to Covid, there have been many changes. The weekly email guidelines were recently updated. Here are a few reminders when submitting an announcement:

- Submit your announcement to email@aauwmh.org, so Darcy and I will both receive it.
- Deadline for submission is noon on Friday.
- Announcement maximum **75 words**. Include a link for additional information.
- The entry will be published in the email for 2 weeks.

For more detailed guidelines please visit:

http://www.aauwmh.org/wp-content/uploads/governance/aauw_policies_addendum7.pdf

Please send us any suggestions or comments you have regarding the weekly email. We are always looking for ideas to improve your experience.



What is ISPF?

Peggy Martin, ISPF president
(ispf@aauwmh.org)



This time of year, many members are writing checks to ISPF AAUW for their Wildflower Fund donations but really don't understand what ISPF is or why we use it.

ISPF AAUW is the Interbranch Special Projects Foundation –AAUW of Santa Clara County. All AAUW branches in the county may have accounts with ISPF; Morgan Hill's is the **Wildflower Fund**.

ISPF is a 501 (c) 3 entity with its own bylaws that was established in 1988 for branches in Santa Clara County so that donations for local scholarships and other branch programs might be tax deductible. MH has been using ISPF since 2004. All of the fundraising dollars from our member donations, corporate sponsor contributions, and proceeds from the Wildflower Run are held in this Wildflower Fund account.

Local scholarships and grants, Tech Trek and other branch philanthropic activities, as well as support for AAUW national programs are paid out of this account, as are run-related expenses.

The ISPF board of directors is made up of a representative of each branch that has an account with ISPF. **Maggie Leininger** is ours. There are also three officers who are appointed by the ISPF board. I currently serve as president; branch member **Elena Anderson** is secretary; and Virginia Turner of the Los Gatos-Saratoga branch is treasurer.

Community Action Grants

Susan Rife, CAG Chair
(grants@aauwmh.org)

www.aauw.org

**Community Action
Grants: AAUW**

The Morgan Hill Branch's Community Action Grants committee allocated \$7,000 to nine area nonprofit organizations for projects ranging from books for school children to support for budding filmmakers. This year a special emphasis was placed on grants for schools wrestling with remote-learning challenges.

Grants were made to:

- **Britton Middle School:** two projects, 1) for the purchase of a remote-learning program to encourage online student interactions; and 2) for the purchase of digital drawing tablets to enable math teachers to more effectively communicate with students in the classroom and remotely.
- **P.A. Walsh Elementary School:** for gift cards to encourage consistent student attendance and participation in remote learning.
- **San Martin Gwinn School:** to increase the number of Spanish-language books in the school library and to host motivational speaker Lilyan Prado Carrillo for a Zoom assembly.
- **Paradise Valley Engineering Academy:** to furnish its new library space and build its book collection.
- **Literary Legacies and Poppy Jasper International Film Festival:** for projects to support a youth writing workshop and film program to enable girls to explore their identities and encourage them to enter filmmaking.
- **BookSmart Community Advantage:** to buy books for its "Diverse Books for Our Community" program to broaden the range of materials available in school libraries.
- **Discovery Counseling Center:** in support of its "Bold Journey" and "Boldly Me" programs to build self-esteem and mentoring in elementary and middle school students.

Keeping In Touch (KIT)

Donna Dicker, Chair
(scholarships@aauwmh.org)



The Keeping in Touch (KIT) awards grants to former AAUW scholarship recipients to support their continuing education. The committee has selected the following five winners for the 2021-2022 academic year:

- **Lindsey Baker** is completing her nursing program at San Jose State. She will major in Pediatrics with a goal of one day practicing at the Lucille Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford.
- **Sruchi Patel** is a second year Film and Television major at UCLA. She was a member of the Young Women Future Leaders group and has participated in Speech Trek.
- **Emily Dinh** is studying psychological and brain sciences at UC Santa Barbara. She is pursuing a double major including business administration and plans to also earn an MBA.
- **Katelyn Lemieux** is studying Business Economics at UCLA. She has found virtual learning challenging, and her advice to current high school students is: “Expand your knowledge, not because you have to, but because you want to.”
- **Shalimar McGuinness** attends Grossmont College and is planning to receive an internship with emphasis on her major of International Business. She finds virtual learning has a positive side; her former commute time can now be used to study.

Fritts Family STEM Scholarship

Mary Cox, Chair
(stemscholarship@aauwmh.org)



Susan Oldham Fritts has established a new scholarship called the Fritts Family STEM Scholarship. The \$1000 scholarship will be awarded to a freshman, sophomore or junior currently working toward a bachelor’s degree in science, math, or an engineering program at an accredited four-year college or university.

Branch member Susan and her late husband, David Fritts, were STEM professionals with a shared passion for education and for mentoring women and girls in the fields of science and engineering.

Susan, a retired researcher and chemical engineer, has been involved in Tech Trek, GEMS, the Synopsys Championship, South Valley Science and Engineering Fair, and other local science outreach activities. In addition to helping her with many of these activities, David worked as a failure analysis engineer and was instrumental in training female graduate engineers in the electronics industry. Their commitment to equity in all the STEM fields lives on through the Fritts Family STEM Scholarship.

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Brian and Katie Howard
 Owners



AAUW California
Speech Trek

Speech Trek 2021

Joanne Rooney, Speech Trek Coordinator

(spechtrek@aauw.org)

On February 23, AAUW Morgan Hill hosted Speech Trek 2021 via Zoom. Five high school contestants from Oakwood School competed. The topic was “Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls?” Contestants voiced their opinions in a 5-6 minute speech. Winners were:

1. **Lilianna Jaquet**
2. **Jullea Powell**
3. **Jillian Bogosian.**

See the contest on the [AAUW Facebook page](#). A recording of Lilyana’s speech was sent to AAUW CA to compete in the State semifinals.

Congratulations to our contestants and winners!



Public Policy

Maggie Leininger, Public Policy Chair

(publicpolicy@aauwmh.org)

Equal Pay Day March 24, 2021

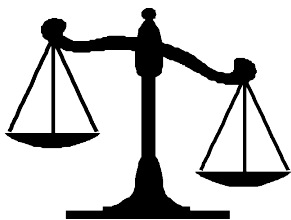
Equal Pay Day is the symbolic day dedicated to raising awareness of the gender pay gap. It represents how far into the year the average woman must work in order to earn what the average man earns in the previous year, regardless of experience or job type. Women working full time are paid an average of 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man. Women of color face an even wider pay gap: Black women earn 63 cents for every dollar paid to white men, Latinas earn 55 cents.

AAUW continues to advocate for strong pay equity legislation, regulation, and enforcement.

Legal Advocacy Fund

Janet Wright, LAF Chair

(laf@aauwmh.org)



Paige v. USAID (United States Agency for International Development) involves three women, each of whom worked for USAID for more than 27 years in overseas posts. Each achieved the highest rank in the Senior Foreign Service. In 2016, they discovered that, despite their greater seniority and higher rank, they were paid considerably less than dozens of lower-ranking and less-experienced male Senior Foreign Service officers. The pay disparities in base pay also impacted various aspects of their compensation including danger pay, pay differential for serving in difficult living conditions, contributions to the equivalent of a 401K, and notably, pensions. For pensions, the impact over a 40-year retirement can be as much as \$400,000.

Their complaint was denied by the EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) and is now on appeal. The AAUW LAF joined the American Foreign Service Association in supporting this case in August 2020. There is little precedent for cases involving pay inequality in the Senior Foreign Service. Therefore, this is an important case and is being closely watched to determine the commitment of the USAID and the US Government to support pay equality. If successful, it could lead to a review of other senior pay policies.

Young Women Leaders



Mary Patterson & Joy Safakish, Advisors

The YWL is on the move! Twenty-one high school students from six local schools comprise this year's group. Many of them have been playing leadership roles in community events, and now the group is focused on its spring leadership conference.

At our December meeting, we bid farewell to Margaret McCann, who was instrumental in starting YWL, and welcomed Mary Patterson as a new advisor.

The spring conference will be a virtual Speaker Series on April 17 & 18, 2021. The young women will be speaking on current topics in our society, while keeping the emphasis on local concerns and offering ways you can engage in your community.

Topics featured in the Speaker Series will be:

- Simple Ways to Waste Less and Recycle More
- Propaganda and Persuasion
- Wildlife Protection
- Gender Expectations
- Local Eating
- Menstrual Equity

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

In the past, the YWL has organized leadership conferences for Morgan Hill youth in 7th grade through early college age. Last year, when the pandemic forced the cancellation of the conference, members organized events such as the Climate Change Video Competition, Masking a Difference, The Effects of Vaping, and they contributed articles to local news media; see their website for more details, <http://youngwomenleaders.org/>.

Look for upcoming news in the AAUW-MH weekly email about the virtual Speaker Series. Registration information will be forthcoming and it's open to all youth, 7th grade through college age. Plan to join us and help us spread the word.

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President: Marian Sacco

President-Elect: Suman Ganapathy

VP Membership: Kathy Hansell & Sherrie Wren

Editor: Kim Gardner, Layout Editor: Christine Hopwood

Friendship News

IN MEMORIAM

Former branch member Pat Kraut passed away on January 2, 2021, as a result of Covid-19. She was 92. She belonged to AAUW for 27 years from 1991-2018. Our condolences to her family. Her granddaughter wrote a loving obituary and shared some of Pat's adventures. Click [here](#).

Jill Paveza, Friendship Chair
(friendship@aauwmh.org)

During the past year as everyone has coped with the Covid-19 pandemic, we have had little to report on our members' activities—no-one was going anywhere or doing anything or even seeing friends. In some issues of the Newsletter we included articles, poems and even songs about how various members were filling their time. In this vein, one of our members, Kathy DeVine, has sent some information about a project that is underway at the Morgan Hill Historical Society Museum, where she is the Director.

Morgan Hill Historical Society – Pandemic Project

These are extraordinary times and our lives have been forever changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Morgan Hill Historical Society and Museum recognize the importance of capturing this history and would like to ask the residents of Morgan Hill, Coyote, Madrone and San Martin to help us document community experiences and preserve them for future generations.


We want your stories, photos, and personal accounts. What have you experienced? How has the pandemic disrupted your lives? How are you coping with the changes in your household and your social interactions? If you are interested and want to participate in helping us record current history, please go to: <https://www.morganhillhistoricalsociety.org/pandemic-project-description>.



Farewell to Linnie Lee




We bid farewell to Linnie Lee who has moved back to Atlanta with her husband. We will miss her sunny smile, cheerful personality and dedication to AAUW MH. She will be greatly missed at our Wine and Whine gatherings.



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