



MORGAN HILL
(CA) BRANCH



The Wildflower

Wildflower Run 2021

Elizabeth Mandel, WFR Publicity



Even in the best of times, organizing a Wildflower Run presents the challenge of managing many moving parts like runners, sponsors, prizes, and logistics into one smooth-running event. But throw in a pandemic, and any traditional playbook goes out the window. For 2021, we needed to define alternate runner and sponsor incentives, revamp our marketing messaging, and enlist a team willing and able to plunge into the unknown and organize an event that had, in previous years, been built around the in-person excitement of winner prizes at the podium, hanging out with friends, free photos, sponsor booths, Jamba Juice, course entertainment, music, goodie bags, and youth activities. This year, all these components had to pivot to virtual.

The Wildflower Team rose to the challenge and came through with positivity and determination. What they didn't know before, they quickly figured out. **Amina Khemici** launched our expanded social media campaign; **Wendy Miller** provided social media guidance; **Anne Kappmeyer** consulted on marketing messaging; **Suman Ganapathy** managed and created excitement around our prize drawings; **Joy Safakish** and **Donna Dicker** solicited testimonials from scholarship recipients; **Lori Mains** coordinated packet logistics and was tenacious in managing registration; **Janet Wright** provided runners with virtual run resources, **Doris Fredericks** and **Jill Paveza** created and mailed packets, **Yvonne Randolph** found a great speaker, and **Pat Toombs** and **Marian Sacco** provided leadership.

The team's fresh ideas and dedication made the 2021 Wildflower Run an unqualified success, and will make future Wildflower Runs even better. Thank you all!

[See more run pictures on the Friendship page](#)



Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
June 6 Party	2
Wildflower Fund Update	3
Membership	3
2021-2022 Board Bios	4
SpeechTrek	5
Tech Trek	5
Letter to MH City Council	6
New Interest Group	6
Friendship & Travel	7
YWL Speaker Series	8

President's Message

Marian Sacco, President
(president@aauwmh.org)

Much has changed in our lives during the past year, and little winter rain, erratic hot and cold days show the climate is changing and not for the good.

Sometimes change is good and shows progress. One way you can effect change is by making your voice heard through voting. AAUW National Election is in full swing and your vote is more critical than ever to move AAUW forward to a future where equality and equity for all are the norm. Please read the information on the ByLaws change to "Open Membership" [here](#), critically evaluate both pro and con, and vote your heart. If you did not receive a "PIN" in order to vote, send an email to connect@aauw.org or call 800-326-2289. Voting ends on May 7th and a quorum of votes is necessary to begin to see any change. **Don't delay do it now!**

AAUW California elections are also being held! An email dated April 16th has the voting information. Morgan Hill member, **Carol Holzgrafe**, is running for a second term on the Board.

The theme of the AAUW CA Virtual Annual Convention held on April 17 was "**Anything is Possible**", perfectly exemplifying how Morgan Hill members "get it done"!

Our successful Wildflower Virtual Run, as illustrated by many fun Social Media pictures, shows the Morgan Hill Branch and the power of teamwork in action despite the huge change from a physical to a virtual run

Presentations at the AAUW CA annual meeting covered many interesting and informative topics, including the ten top contributing branches in the State. Morgan Hill placed fifth with \$14,981 donated to the AAUW Fund. I encourage everyone to view the video of the annual meeting [here](#), and see the Speech Trek winner videos, an excellent Public Policy update, and the State Project Grant winners. I know we completed excellent projects in 2020 but did not apply for money or recognition. Let's change that in 2021!

Still unsure how to vote in the AAUW Election to eliminate the degree requirement for membership? Read AAUW-CA Director, Carol Holzgrafe's thoughts on the issue [here](#). (pdf)

WEEKLY EMAIL!



Maximum 75 words
Deadline Friday @ noon
Send articles to
Monica and Darcy
email@aauwmh.org



www.aauwmh.org
Send suggestions
& updates to
[Sandy Stob](#)



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, June 6

We are planning an in-person party at Morgan Hill Cellars to celebrate Spring and install the 2021-2022 Officers



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Annual Wildflower Fund Member Giving Campaign

Carol O'Hare, Members Donations Chair

(donations@aauwmh.org)

2021 Wildflower Fund Campaign Sets Record

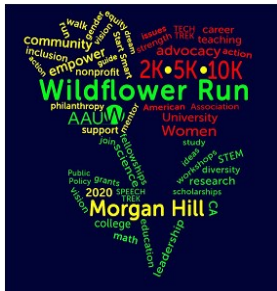
The 2021 Wildflower Fund Member Giving Campaign has come to an end with a total of \$17,854 received. This is a record high, thanks to some very generous donors, given that fewer than half of members participated. These funds, along with proceeds from the virtual Wildflower Run and contributions from corporate sponsors, will support programs for women and girls: local scholarships and grants, Tech Trek, and national AAUW priorities.

But we could do even more with your help. It is not too late to donate. You may have received a letter in the mail requesting your support. Please consider making a gift to the 2021 campaign. No amount is too small. You may contribute by check or credit card (via PayPal).

Bonus T-Shirt

This year members who make a donation of \$100 or more are eligible to receive a bonus gift of a 2020 Wildflower Run t-shirt. This unique design celebrates the AAUW Mission and the Women's Right to Vote Centennial.

My thanks to Wildflower Fund committee members **Janet Wright, Gwen Saucedo, and Tammy Parker.**



Membership Update

Kathy Hansell & Sherrie Wren, Membership Co-VPs

(membership@aauwmh.org)

We are delighted to welcome four new members to our branch.

Kristopher (Krissie) Boursier received a B.A. in mathematics from U.C. Santa Barbara in 1979 and a single subject credential from National University in 2004. After working for a software business and teaching at Live Oak High School Krissie has retired. She continues her involvement at Live Oak volunteering for the robotics club. She joined AAUW to mentor and inspire girls and develop new friendships. She could assist with computer skills, July 4th Parade, hospitality, local scholarships, and Tech Trek.

Gaylis Jensen Ghaderi received a B.A. in Music Therapy from the University of Miami, FL, and a Masters in Elementary Education from the University of Phoenix. She has been self-employed with family home daycare for 30 years and joined AAUW to give back to the community. She is interested in assisting with the newsletter, one-time events, and voter education.

Robin Wheatfall has a B.A. in Biology from Saint Mary's College of Maryland and a teaching credential from Santa Clara University. She is currently employed at Stafford School in Morgan Hill. Robin is interested in Arts Outings, Evening Books, Travel Tips, World Books, and Writers Workshop. She joined AAUW to develop new friendships.

Alexandra Mandel graduated from Live Oak in 2009. She majored in political science and psychology at UCLA and went on to earn a Master's in Social Work from the University of Washington. Moving back to California, she worked for Kaiser and Valley Medical Center as a medical social worker. Alex is currently director of services at Adriana San Milan School of Psychological Special Education Services and is working on a Master's in School Psychology through Alliant University.

SUPPORT AAUW

RENEW YOUR 2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP

- ◆ To date 45 renewals have been received.
- ◆ Invoices will be sent to members who have not renewed on the 19th of each month until Nov.
- ◆ Reminders & link to the membership renewal form will appear in weekly email.

DON'T DELAY—RENEW TODAY



AAUW-MH 2021-2022 Board of Directors



Marian Sacco, President, (president@aaumh.org)

Marian served as President during the challenging pandemic year of 2020. Additional volunteer experience includes serving as 2020 Wildflower Run Medals Chair, VP & Board member of the Jackson Oaks HOA, and Leadership MH Class of 2005. She was a VP of Marketing at a medical technology company and currently works as a realtor.



Suman Ganapathy, President-elect (preselect@aaumh.org)

Suman has been both layout and copy editor for the newsletter. She leads Afternoon Book Group, was Prizes Chair for the 2021 Virtual Wildflower Run, participates in Writers Workshop, Friday Writer's Group, and is a member of the Bylaws Committee. She is a past recipient of a Leadership grant, serves on the City's Library, Culture and Arts Commission, the Morgan Hill Downtown Association, and volunteers for several other organizations.



Peggy Martin, VP AAUW Funds (fund@aaumh.org)

Peggy is VP of AAUW Funds, President of ISPF-AAUW, and WFR treasurer. She has served as branch president/co-president, CFO, and treasurer. She is a past Leadership grant recipient, treasurer of the MH Community Foundation, treasurer for the South Valley Science and Engineering Fair, and serves on the advisory committee for Lewy Body Dementia Awareness & Research (The Sue's Story Project). Peggy and her husband are partners in a financial planning business.



Tessy Albin, CFO/Treasurer (treasurer@aaumh.org)

Originally from Cuba, Tessy has lived in the Bay area since 1960. She earned an MBA in Finance from Santa Clara University and was one of the first female students to attend after it became co-ed. She built a career in Finance in the high tech industry. She currently owns a homeowner association management company. Married to husband David for 45 years, she enjoys snow skiing in the Sierra and boating in the Delta.



Yvonne Randolph, Co-VP Programs (programs@aaumh.org)

Yvonne earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Design from CSU Sacramento and worked in product design for medical device companies. Yvonne co-founded of LyaMed, a company creating solutions for ophthalmology needs. When she is not searching for interesting speakers for our branch programs, she enjoys cultural events, book clubs, hiking, cooking, and gardening.



Maggie Leininger, Co-VP Programs (publicpolicy@aaumh.org)

Maggie earned a B.S. Degree in Systems Engineering from the University of Florida and built a career in project management and finance management. She has served as branch president, co-president, and membership VP. She is currently Business Operations Manager at Verde Vineyards in Gilroy.



Sherrie Wren, Co-VP Membership (membership@aaumh.org)

Sherrie earned her B.A. degree in Biology and Secondary Credentials in Science and Math. She taught science in middle and high school, and has lived in Pennsylvania, Washington State, and Mississippi. In the Bay area she worked for USGS as a lab tech in water quality. She also serves as treasurer for Friends of the Morgan Hill Library. Sherrie loves birding, camping in the Sierra, and hiking in the Bay area.



Kathy Hansell, Co-VP Membership (membership@aaumh.org)

Kathy is a third-generation Californian and has lived San Martin for 45 years. She earned a B.A. in English from UC Berkeley and was a teacher for 31 years (including 24 years at Britton Middle School in MH). She's been active in branch Membership, Leadership Development and the Afternoon Books group.



Pat Toombs, Secretary (secretary@aaumh.org)

Pat graduated from Texas A&M University with an M.S. in Finance and a B.A. in Business. She worked for various telecom and data networking systems companies in Silicon Valley for over 30 years before retiring. She now enjoys working around her property and hiking local trails. Pat has worked on the Wildflower Run in many capacities, including Director, and is a member of several AAUW interest groups.



Speech Trek 2021

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

On February 23, AAUW Morgan Hill hosted Speech Trek 2021 via Zoom. The topic was "Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls?" **Lilianna Jaquet** placed first and a recording of her speech was sent to AAUW CA to compete in the State semifinals. Lilianna tied for 4th place.

Tech Trek

Joy Safakish, Tech Trek Coordinator
techtrek@aauwmh.org)

The twelve students selected to attend camp were from Morgan Hill Unified public schools. The application process was online this year, and student finalists and their parents were invited to Zoom interviews. The virtual camp has three sessions this summer, each going Monday through Friday. A STEM kit will be delivered to each camper before the start of her session. Congratulations to the following students:

Britton Middle School

Ashlyn Ingraham
Dzali Romera
Ava Chapman

Charter School of Morgan Hill

Ciara Looney
Bernyce Nguyen
Sophia Ciprez Reyna
Linnea Barney
Isabella Lim

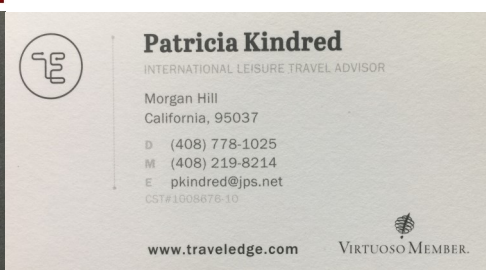
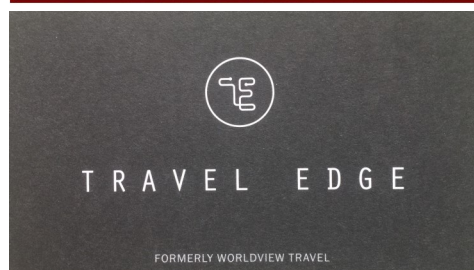
Jackson Academy of Math & Music

Cara Wargocki
Teagan Hensley

Martin Murphy Middle School

Keiry Iniguez Barajas
Rebecca Oxtot

A big thank you to all the committee members who participated this spring. They spent many hours reviewing applications, reading essays, and conducting interviews



Letter to MH City Council

Suman Ganapathy, President-Elect

(preselect@aauwmh.org)

Since 1881, AAUW’s advocacy has helped to make women’s voices heard – in the White House, Congress, statehouse, and Morgan Hill City Council. We need to step up and lend our voices to non-partisan causes that matter. Recently, several members of MH branch were proud to be at the forefront of an important show of solidarity, determination, and strength in support of American democracy in the face of opposition. To read more about this endeavor, [go here](#).

Branch members have expressed a desire to form an interest group for social justice and diversity. Please see Joanne Rife’s announcement below.



Social Justice, Diversity Interest Group

Joanne Rife

(joannerife@me.com)

Several branch members have indicated a desire to establish a new interest group focused on social justice and diversity.

A meeting to discuss the group’s goals, ambitions, and structure will be held on Saturday, June 5, at 2 p.m., outdoors on the patio of Joanne and Susan Rife’s home, 17620 Holiday Drive.

How to make inroads on such a wide and divisive subject will be discussed. Among proposed topics are whether the group should :

1. aim toward action, and what actions are appropriate, doable, and effective;
2. put its emphasis on study and awareness;
3. act as a conduit of information regarding other active groups in Santa Clara County;
4. all three of the above;
5. all three of the above and others.

Anyone interested should email proposals, thoughts, goals to Joanne at joannerife@me.com. Also, if you cannot attend but are interested in the subject and want to be included in the discussion, again, email Joanne.

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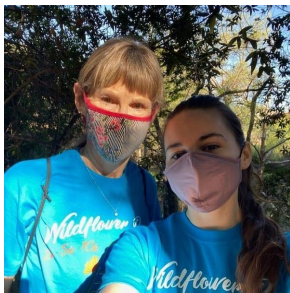
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Friendship & Travel

Jill Paveza, Friendship Chair

(friendship@aauwmh.org)



Marian Sacco (L) & Suman Ganapathy after final WFR prize drawing at Villa Miramonte



Hello AAUW Friends! Most of us should be vaccinated by now. Soon we will be able to gather and enjoy each other's company, and make travel plans.

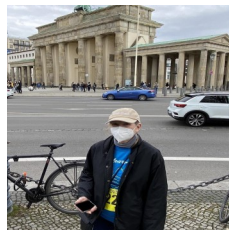
AAUW friends celebrated their recent vaccinations with lunch at Phil's Fish Market in Moss Landing. Left to right are **Joanne Rife, Barbara Palmer, Jean Pinard, Carol O'Hare, and Carol Holzgrafe.** (Allen Palmer took the photo). A good time was had by all.

Congratulations to Susan and Phil!

Can honeymooners be an old married couple? Or, a better question would be – are there second chances? For the two of us, the answer to both is a resounding yes!

Secret matchmaker and fellow AAUW-MH member Tessy Albin maneuvered two "seasoned" Morgan Hillians -this widow and her ski buddy widower friend - into meeting, double dating, and Whine and Wining until the inevitable happened. So, Phil and I are pleased to announce we got married in a very intimate, COVID safe ceremony on April 10. I'll be ditching the hyphenated Oldham-Fritts last name.

From now on, you'll find me in the AAUW directory as Susan Hines!



Marilyn Pifer ran her Wildflower Run through the streets of Berlin, Germany



AAUW Saratoga-Los Gatos



Young Women Leaders

Mary Patterson & Joy Safakish, Advisors

Young Women Leaders Tackle Current Topics at the Speaker Series

The young leaders spoke expertly and engagingly on a range of topics during the 2021 Speaker Series last month. Their presentations were all geared toward informing, promoting social discourse and encouraging youth to take action locally. The presentations included research findings, guest speakers and interactive games. Energetic and enthusiastic, the young leaders provided education and motivation through their inspiring words. The audience gave overwhelmingly positive reviews to all of the speakers. Read about their presentations [HERE](#).



Don't forget to
SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, June 6
 We are planning an
**in-person party at Morgan Hill
 Cellars to celebrate Spring and
 install the 2021-2022 Officers**



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