

THE AAUW KEY

Palo Alto CA Branch

February 2020 • Volume 67 • Number 3

90th Anniversary Party of AAUW Palo Alto



**Saturday, February 22, 2020
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m**

**Channing House, 11th Floor
850 Webster Street, Palo Alto**



**Reader's Theatre:
AAUW Activities Through the Decades
Special guest: Jane Honikman**



**Members of 40 years will receive
special recognition. Please attend
if you are in that group.**



**Anniversary cake and
beverages will be served
following the program.**



**On-street parking near Channing
House is usually plentiful on
Saturdays.**



AAUW's special guest in February is **Jane Israel Honikman, M.S.**

Jane is the daughter of Bea Israel, who was a founding member of the Palo Alto Branch.

Jane was born and raised in Palo Alto, California. She grew up listening to her mother Bea talk about AAUW. She graduated from Paly High in 1963, Whittier College in 1967 and immediately joined the Palo Alto Branch of AAUW. After her husband Terry graduated from Stanford, they moved to Santa Barbara in 1970. The Goleta Valley Branch of AAUW formed that year and she became a Charter member.

The Branch received a 1977 Community Action grant from the AAUW Education Foundation to establish Postpartum Education for Parents (PEP). In 1981 Jane received an individual grant from the AAUW to study the Growth and Dynamics of Postpartum Support Groups. In 1987 she founded Postpartum Support International (PSI) after organizing a conference on Women's Mental Health Following Childbirth.

Jane has authored books, articles and educational materials on parental mental health and how to start community support networks. She continues to lecture and train internationally on the role of social support and the emotional health of families. Jane's own family includes her supportive husband of 52 years, 3 adult children and 8 grandchildren (and a cat).

Branch 90th Birthday Party.

Saturday, February 22

Quote from the Preface of *An Informal History of the Palo Alto Branch of AAUW*

"This history is prepared as a tribute to those who have previously served and enjoyed the benefits of this branch, and equally, as an incentive to those who will do so in the future."

Emma Ruth Christian,
Historian 1960

On February 22 we will meet to hear from some of our more recent past presidents, to enjoy each other's company and to celebrate the Branch's 90th anniversary, with cake of course. Four women first met in October of 1929 to organize joining AAUW. January 11 was the deadline for signing up to be a charter member of the branch.

By the next year there were 221 members representing 58 colleges.

We have much to celebrate. Please come, hear some of our achievements and enjoy the celebration.

--Marcia Baugh, Branch historian



\$ for \$ Challenge to Benefit Tech Trek!!

Would you like to contribute to sending
7th grade girls to Tech Trek?

Those of us who attended the last two
Authors Luncheons in support of our
Tech Trek program, will remember the
dollar-for-dollar matching challenge
grant made by an anonymous donor.
Well, this very generous donor has
offered to continue the challenge grant
using a mail in format.

So, this strong Tech Trek supporter will
match each gift made to our Branch's
Tech Trek program in the month of
February up to \$1,300. We would hate
not to not be able to take full advantage
of this challenge, so we are asking
members to make a donation this month
to our Tech Trek program.

Donations checks should be payable to
AAUW-CA SPF with memo
Tech Trek Palo Alto
and mailed to
Anna Zara
4 E Creek Pl
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Thank you for your continued support of
Tech Trek.



Sunday, May 3, 2020 – Joint lunch program with AAUW Los Altos/Mountain View

Please join us in celebrating the 2020
Tech Trek campers sponsored by the
Palo Alto and Los Altos/Mountain View
Branches! Our 2020 Tech Trek
campers will be introduced and there
will be a speaker.

Date: Sunday, May 3, 2020

Time: 12:00-1:30

Place: Mitchell Park Community Center
3700 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto

Cost: \$20 for a buffet catered Mexican
lunch

Look for more details in April, hope to
see you there!



Holiday Party

AAUW members, their partners and friends relaxed in the beautifully decorated 11th floor of Channing House at the branch party on December 28. Friendships were renewed while strangers became acquainted with other members. Thank you to the Wine Tasting section for providing wine and to the Board members for bringing other beverages, delicious appetizers and desserts.

Jo Harberson, AAUW state and national leader, passed away recently at her home in the East Bay. Anyone who attended state or national conventions is likely to have met Jo. She was friendly, an outspoken supporter of AAUW and a generous, outstanding fundraiser. For years, she challenged convention attendees to a matching grant offer.

In Memoriam

Carol Howell Harrington, 50 year resident of Palo Alto, long-time member and leader of AAUW Palo Alto and other local foundations, died on Nov. 21, 2019. Carol was active in environmental issues, as paid staff or volunteer. She was part of the AAUW Palo Alto committee that produced a booklet in the 1960s, "If You Want to Save Your Environment—Start at Home!" The book sales yielded \$10,000 for the AAUW Educational Foundation. To be near family, Carol moved a few years ago to Santa Cruz.

The Equal Rights Amendment was ratified by the Virginia legislature on January 15, 2020.

I found the following interview with Ms. Foy on VOX.* I have copied it in its entirety to celebrate this vital (though not final) action to enshrine gender equality in the constitution.

“ For Jennifer Carroll Foy, the fight against sexism started in high school. Her class was watching TV coverage of the historic 1996 Supreme Court decision *United States v. Virginia*. In a famous majority opinion written by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the Court found that the previously all-male Virginia Military Institute — a prestigious military college in Foy’s home state — would have to admit women.

“Foy agreed with the decision, but the boys in the class were outraged, she told Vox. Her male best friend even came up to her and told her that if she went to VMI, he would go too, because ‘I want to be there to watch you when you fail.’

“I told him, ‘Challenge accepted.’ Foy recalls.


“They both went to the military college, but only Foy graduated — one of the first black women to do so. She went on to become an attorney and, in 2017, one of a

historic number of women elected to the Virginia House of Delegates.

“Now, in 2020, she’s the sponsor of a measure to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, which would ban discrimination on the basis of sex, enshrining in the US Constitution the principle of gender equality that Ginsburg argued for in *United States v. Virginia*. To become law, the amendment must be ratified by 38 states. And on January 15, 2020, Virginia became the 38th state, with the ERA passing both houses of the state legislature.

“However, there are still major legal and political hurdles to clear in order for the amendment to officially become law. But Foy believes that, now more than ever, there’s momentum in Virginia and around the country for enacting a constitutional change that’s been decades in the making. “Women are fed up,” she said, “and we’re now in positions of power.”

*Vox is described by Wikipedia as a “liberal leaning website”.


The Key
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AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change.

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