

THE AAUW KEY

Palo Alto CA Branch

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LEADER'S COLUMN

You AAUW members are avid readers so there's no need to duplicate information you have been reading and hearing for months about COVID-19. Instead, we send wishes that you are all in good health, doing well during the quarantine, and looking forward to greeting each other in person before long.

"When will this be over?" is asked thousands of times daily. You will not find an answer here. We cannot even tell you what the next AAUW year will bring. The new Leadership Team will proceed according to the situation. There are no certainties at this time, just best guesses such as those that follow.

It is likely that there will be few, if any, large meetings. Indications now are that small group gatherings will soon be allowed so sections that are small may be able to meet. Our Tech Trek Committee can proceed to select girls for 2021 camps if middle schools and colleges that host our STEM Camps are open. Communication with branch members may increasingly arrive by email. Watch your inbox for announcements or important business. When possible, there will again be print copies of *The Key*.

For now, I offer a challenge. In an effort to combat lone-



liness and stay connected with each other, we can revert to using the telephone. Let's open the branch directory and call a minimum of one member a week. That could be a friend you have not spoken with for awhile. Or be brave and phone a member you do not know, until the end of the call. If the person receiving the call does not wish to talk, that's okay. Personally, I'd be honored to receive such calls.

Addendum: I wrote the challenge above on May 1 when I had only my own experience to draw upon. Since then, we've heard how our members were helping others. Several have written that they are already making unexpected phone calls. Their messages in this issue clearly indicate that those calls are appreciated. Thanks to those who shared and encouragement to others to follow their lead.

Marie Wolbach

LEADERS ELECTED



An amazingly large number of members voted for a new Board of Directors. Elected to serve as a branch Leadership Team for one year begin-

ning July 1, 2020 are Joyce Freiberg, Barbara Bowden, Ellie Mansfield, Gail Schubert, Mary Morrison, Marcia Baugh, Barbara Evans and Anna Zara. Betsy Colby will continue to keep the membership data base and publish the directory, as an off-Board Chair. Thanks to all for volunteering to serve.

AAUW & COVID-19

During this challenging time, AAUW stands together as a caring and connected community. For nearly 140 years, we



have been there for one another and fought for the economic security of American women and families. Throughout the coming weeks, months and years, AAUW will accelerate our efforts to address the persistent and underlying inequities that are crucial for a full recovery. Together we can ensure that we end up with a better, more economically secure world for women.

Kim Churches, AAUW CEO

MEMBERS HELPING OTHERS

The value of friendships formed as members of AAUW is evident in the following stories. Members have helped members, and others, or joined together to help neighbors. Some wish not to be named and there are undoubtedly kind tasks being done that remain unknown to others.



Chalk drawing materials compliments of Laurie Van Houten

“Anonymous” member has been shopping for groceries and delivering them to several branch members who are advised not to go out in public. Charlotte Jackson has done the same. Some neighbor members have been trading needed food items without seeing each other. A phone call and a walk to the other person’s front door to drop a paper bag makes it possible. Asking if the neighbor needs anything before sending an order for grocery delivery has also been helpful.

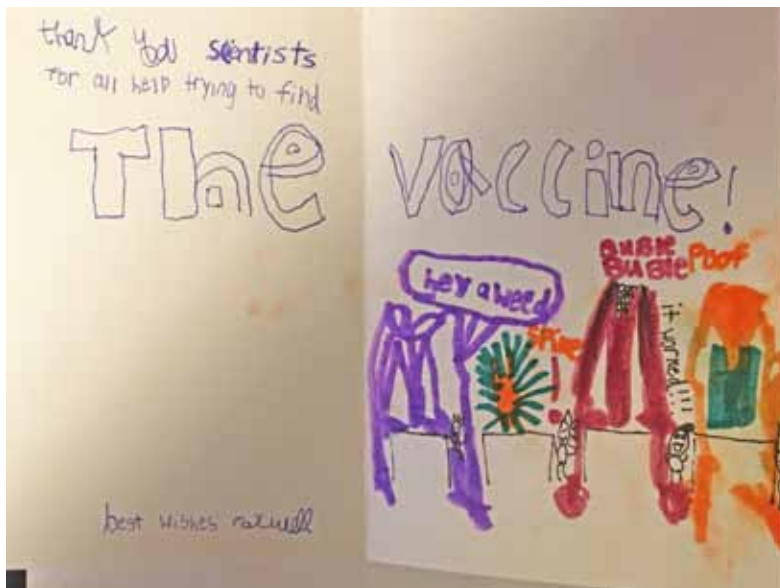
Tempe Javits wrote, “I made a list of all of my friends out of state, especially the ones I don’t see often, such as high school and college friends, and some cousins. I called each one in turn and we had wonderful chats. It cheered me up and I’m sure from their reactions it did the same for them.”

Marcia Baugh has phoned a dozen fellow Avenida Village members each Monday morning for several months. She wrote, “I feel my phone calls now are far more important. People living alone need to know that someone ‘out there’ cares that they exist. My advice to AAUW members and the Village members is to call someone you haven’t talked to in awhile and make human contact. It’s always been important, but it is much more so now for those who can’t get out of the house, or worse, their apartments. Be a friend if only by phoning occasionally.”

Laurie Van Houten and Natalie McClure collaborated to provide activities for kids in Laurie’s neighborhood who are playing in her cul de sac. Natalie has been supplying activities from the American Chemical Society like magnetic slime and making kaleidoscopes and Laurie



Mother’s Day paper flower kits distributed by Laurie and Natalie



puts out bubbles, chalk and other activities. Laurie sent some photos and wrote, “So far, in addition to the science activities, I’ve put together planting seeds, writing thank you notes to helpers, and this week’s activity, making paper flower bouquets for Mother’s Day. The numbers of children and their parents and grandparents who have found the cul de sac has grown considerably. Now they all wave to me in my office window and I see bubbles floating by and hear squeals of laughter. I bring everything in each night and wipe it all down. All activities are packaged separately so kids don’t have to touch all the requisite parts. It is a win-win situation!”

At left: Note to thank a scientist



Thanks to generous branch members who contributed to the Pi Day fundraiser. Checks totaling \$1,365, and a few direct donations of unknown amounts, were donated to benefit AAUW National's programs.

Lucky winners of edible pies were Magda Grant, Kaethe Langs and Miriam Teeter. They graciously agreed to wait for their pies to be delivered when it is considered safe to shop and be close to friends.

As is customary, the fundraiser results were reported to AAUW CA Funds Chair Dianne Owens. She asked for more information about the event.

Owens then used Palo Alto's fundraiser as a major portion of her article in the e-newsletter that is sent regularly to all Branch leaders.

You may see Dianne Owens' name more frequently in the future. She will become AAUW CA President on July 1.




PALO ALTO BRANCH 90TH ANNIVERSARY

AAUW Palo Alto celebrated its 90th anniversary, a few weeks late, at Channing House on February 22nd. Jane Honikman came from Santa Barbara to share her memories of AAUW from her childhood. She also read letters from her mother, Bea Israel, about her AAUW activities as a Founding Member of the Palo Alto branch.

Jane continued a family tradition by immediately joining AAUW when she graduated from Whittier College. She has been an active member in AAUW Santa Barbara, again serving as president this year. Jane's daughter, who also attended the meeting, received an AAUW membership from her mother when she graduated college.

The Palo Alto AAUW Drama Reading section read branch history by year, as written by Marcia Baugh. Attendees heard reminders from past presidents of the branch accomplishments through the years. The comment heard often as the anniversary cake was enjoyed was, "I'd forgotten we did that."



Palo Alto Branch AAUW sends condolences to member and branch leader Linnie Melena and her family. Linnie's husband, Joseph "Joe" Leon Melena succumbed to cancer on March 15.

Sympathy is extended to the family of long-time and very active AAUW member Jeri Foley. She died on April 18 at Channing House, following a long illness unrelated to COVID-19.



Jane Honikman Israel at the podium



2020 TECH TREK CALIFORNIA CAMPS CANCELLED

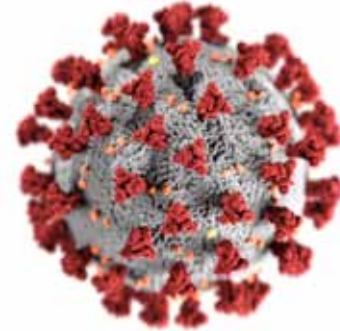
An update from Susan Negrete and Alice M. Hill, AAUW-CA Tech Trek Coordinators regarding the state of Tech Trek this summer:

This year our Branch received 24 applications and essays from 7th grade girls who attend either Ravenswood/49ers Academy, Fletcher, Greene or JLS middle schools. By the beginning of March, those applications and essays had been reviewed by Tech Trek Committee members and we were poised to interview each of our candidates at their schools. However, before we were able to visit the schools to speak with the girls, schools in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties were closed to help slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. So, our intrepid group then moved on to plan B, and we were ready to make our camper selections using the video conferencing app Zoom when we heard the news first from Stanford that the campus would be closed through the summer for most activities including sleep over summer camps and then from the AAUW-CA Tech Trek coordinators that all Tech Trek camps had been cancelled. These are the members of our Branch's Tech Trek Committee – thank you for your flexibility, compassion and tenacity through this process:

- Barbara Bowden
- Barbara Evans
- Cathy Fisher
- Heather Buhr
- Judi Swope
- Lori Van Houten
- Mary Ashley
- Mary Seabury
- Natalie McClure
- Pam Keller

Thank you also to all Branch members and friends who have contributed to our camper sponsorship fund. Those funds will be put to good use next year!

Anna Zara, TT Branch Coordinator



As a result of ongoing and rising concerns regarding COVID-19 and the impact of directives from national, state and local leaders, AAUW California has cancelled the nine upcoming Tech Trek camps scheduled on seven college campuses in June and July of 2020.

AAUW's first priority is the health and welfare of Tech Trek's 7th grade campers, dedicated camp leaders, their staff and branch volunteers, and hosting campus communities.

This heartbreaking decision is in response to the advice and mandates of U.S.A. government leaders, health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO) which has declared a global pandemic.

HAVE YOU RENEWED?

Renewal notices for AAUW's 2020-21 membership year were sent out via email from AAUW's national office on May 1. Many of you have already renewed. Thank you so much! The new membership year begins July 1.

If you did not get a renewal notice early in May, contact Mary Morrison at:

marykmorrison1029@gmail.com

The email gave instructions for paying dues on line and also explained where to mail membership payments made by check.

Watch for communication on 2020-21 plans in August.

*This on-line only issue was produced by
Mary Ashley and Marie Wolbach*

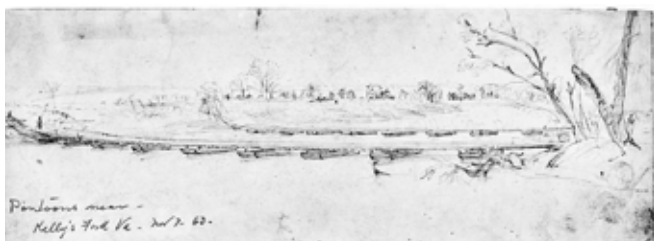
FAMILY HISTORY SECTION MEETING

In April the regularly scheduled Family History section meeting took place through the Internet via the Zoom app. We had a lively discussion based on the reading of several Civil War letters from Charles D'Yarmett of the 122nd Ohio. Charles was my mother-in-law Harriet's great-grandfather, and the letters he and his brother Edward wrote during their service in the US Army were transcribed and shared with their descendants.

Charles volunteered for the US Army in October of 1862 and served for two years. The letters I shared were five from his first two months with the 122nd. He writes that he adjusted well to army life—he was given the rank of Sargent as the regiment was formed. At the beginning of the war rations, equipment, and supplies were plentiful so the soldiers were warm and well fed. Charles' biggest lament was that letters from home were slow in coming. Also, he wrote that he would be happy to receive any newspapers regardless of how old as reading material was not plentiful.

In reading the letters I learned a few things about being in the Army in the 19th century. In learning about some of the details in those letters, I also learned that the Library of Congress' collection of Civil War era photographs is extensive and available to all online. For example, I wanted to know what a pontoon bridge looked like in 1862 and found this drawing of a pontoon bridge that stretched over the Rappahannok River at Kelly's Ford—a location that Charles wrote of as being where he and his regiment built such a bridge.

Anna Zara



<https://www.loc.gov/item/2004660071/>
(link to photograph online for better view)



*Attendees of the April meeting of the Family History Section—
Anna Zara, Betsy Colby, Harriet Roop and Mary Ashley.*

NINETEENTH AMENDMENT CENTENNIAL



Carrie Chapman Catt 1859-1947
Oil on canvas, 1927
by Mary Eliot Foote (1872-1968)

August 2020 marks 100 years since the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment giving women the right to vote. Carrie Chapman Catt's organizational talents are credited with making the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) an effective force in winning the struggle. In NAWSA, she

worked with such leaders as Susan B. Anthony to win the franchise state by state and also for a constitutional amendment. Initially condemning America's flood of immigrants, whom she believed were influenced by their paternalistic Old World cultures to vote against women's suffrage, Catt eventually discarded such xenophobic simplifications, founded the International Woman Suffrage Alliance and became a crusader for internationalism and world peace. In 1900, she replaced Anthony as president of NAWSA and was again elected president in 1915, leading the organization during the successful passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920.