

THE AAUW KEY

Palo Alto CA Branch

August 2020 • Volume 68 • Number 1

NINETEENTH AMENDMENT CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The History of Women's Suffrage

2020 Centennial

Saturday, August 22, 2020

3:00PM – 4:00PM

Online Event co-sponsored by the Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch of AAUW and Santa Clara County Library District.

Register: click on this link or copy and paste in your browser to RSVP:

<https://sccl.bibliocommons.com/events/5f1555cc5084523a00456a4e>

Description:

After a hard-fought series of votes in the U.S. Congress and in state legislatures, the Nineteenth Amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution on August 18, 1920. It states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." To mark this year's centennial of Women's Suffrage, Bonnie J. Morris, PhD, will offer a lively history of the arguments FOR and AGAINST women's suffrage, taking us back to 19th century attitudes toward women in politics and public life.

Dr. Morris is currently a lecturer at UC Berkeley, and the author of sixteen books, including *Women's History for Beginners* which was broadcast on C-Span. Her book *The Feminist Revolution* was selected by *Oprah* magazine as top reading for Women's History Month. She has taught women's history for over 25 years at various universities and has been a guest lecturer for the Library of Congress and the State Department.

This program will be hosted on Zoom. A link will be sent to registered participants by 10:00 a.m. the day of the event. Registration will close at that time.



Woman Suffrage Monument in Centennial Park in Nashville, TN. Tennessee was the 36th and final state to ratify the amendment. It will be dedicated in a live online ceremony at 10:15 am CDT on August 18th.

Go to <http://tnsuffragemonument.org> for more information and a link to the broadcast.

All Palo Alto Branch activities are on hold due to the Pandemic, but we wanted to recognize this very important milestone of 100 years since women "got the vote."

You can go to our Branch website (palo-alto-ca.aauw.net) for any updates, or call Mary Morrison at 650-521-6576 or email marykmorrison1029@gmail.com. She has agreed to be the board phone contact for the upcoming year. She can also help those who have not renewed for the 2020-2021 year. We all look forward to the time when we can meet and socialize again!

Mary Ashley 650-494-1829
and Barbara Evans

This editorial appeared in the Daily Palo Alto Times on August 18, 1920

THE SUFFRAGE VICTORY

The supreme importance of the ratification of the woman's national suffrage amendment by the proper number of States to make the measure effective is that it raises our democracy a degree nearer perfection. Perfect democracy means equality of opportunity. Now that all women citizens of the nation may enjoy the voting right heretofore held by but a portion of the female population, and for many decades only by the men, a great and potent privilege becomes equalized. This privilege—a great triumph in itself—gives to women a power which may be expected to produce equality in other lines as well.

The special or timely significance of the suffrage victory is that all women may have the opportunity in the very year of their success to exercise their newly won right in the election of a President. As the victory has come in a period of national life when problems of a serious weight are more numerous than at any other year, women are entering into their suffrage right with conditions set for testing their deservedness of the privilege—a point which the more stubborn opponents of equal suffrage have professed to hold in doubt.

The women's suffrage idea long antedated the women's suffrage movement, the agitation having been conducted over a period of 273 years in America since the time in 1647 when Mrs. Margaret Brent of Maryland demanded a place and vote in the Legislature. The movement became definite as such in 1869 with the formation of two organizations launched for the purpose of gaining voting rights for women.

One of these organizations was the National Women's Suffrage Association and was headed by two famous champions of the cause—Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The other was the American Woman Suffrage Association, headed by Lucy Stowe and Julia Ward Howe. Though striving for the same ends, these two organizations sought it by different routes. The Anthony-Stanton following based all its hopes on the idea of a Federal amendment. The other organization believed the plan in order to be successful would have to be worked State by State.

Subsequent history has proven that the combination of both plans was necessary for the end sought. By the conversion of one State at a time until a substantial number had been won over to remove from woman's suffrage the stigma of novelty and to disprove many of the absurd pre-

dictions of pernicious results that its opponents swore would follow, the country became prepared for the acceptance of woman's suffrage on a national scale. Without the victories won in the various States one at a time, it is inconceivable that the ratification of the Federal measure by two-thirds of the States could ever have been brought about.

On the other hand, without the passage of the Federal amendment there are some States in which woman's suffrage probably would have been postponed another half century. This is indicated by the refusal of several States—Georgia, Virginia, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina and Maryland—to ratify the amendment.

Although in the pioneer days of the suffrage fight no political party dared espouse the cause, there has been a laughable contest between the parties to hasten the fight to a victorious conclusion since the ultimate result has been foreseen and both parties desired the credit—and the women's votes.

Republicans claim the credit for the suffrage victory because up to the time of Tennessee's ratification the Republican ratifying States outnumbered the Democratic State supporters of the measure twenty-nine to six, and that of twenty-four legislative sessions called to ratify the measure sixteen were called by Republican Governors and eight by Democratic executives. But the Democrats turn back the pages of history farther and show that the suffragists have pleaded their cause before twenty-two Congresses, of which the Republicans dominated in both houses in eleven and the Democrats in four, while in seven the House was Democratic and the Senate Republican.

So, just as the suffragists for years sought recognition of the justice of their principle from the political parties, now the parties are in a panicky stampede for recognition of their own part in the case—belated though it was—from the triumphant women.

It is not likely, however, that either party will gain any corner on the woman's vote through any such pretext. Women have their fixed political views the same as the men, and will be guided in their voting by the same considerations which control the balloting by the men, whether those be principle, self-interest, prejudice, gullibility, bribery, coercion or any other controlling motives familiar in politics.

TECH TREK UPDATE FOR 2021

This has been an odd summer without Tech Trek and feeling that anticipation of the transformative experiences Camp Grace Hopper would have provided for our Branch's sponsored campers and all the campers sponsored by other AAUW Branches.

We have been getting periodic updates from the AAUW-CA coordinators as well as from our Camp Grace Hopper directors, Cynthia and Jennifer Miller. Currently, Cynthia and Jennifer and the Camp Marie Curie directors are looking for another university that will be our host for the two weeks of camp. Stanford had earlier shared their decision to stop hosting non-Stanford summer activities on their campus through at least the summer of 2021. So in the hopes of having Tech Trek next summer, our camp directors are looking for a new campus for 2021.

Part of the research for a new venue for Tech Trek includes how to safely hold a sleep-away camp and keep campers, dorm moms, counselors and teachers safe. This is something we all have never done before so this part will most likely go slowly as we will need to watch closely how universities serve their students this term. As a group we also don't want to be caught having selected campers and then not being able to hold camp.

So, lots of unknowns. What we do know, however, is that as a Branch we are ready and able to sponsor at least 8 girls to attend Tech Trek next summer. We also know that the format that we have used to select campers which includes in person interviews will not work for the 2021 camper selection cycle. As I learn more I will share the information with our membership and hope that we have a selection format that will work for our Branch Tech Trek committee.

Stay safe and healthy everyone!

Anna Zara

**Check the Branch website,
<http://pal Alto-ca.aauw.net> for up-to-date information on the status of our Sections. Some are meeting virtually, some are on hiatus. Some are looking for new leadership.**

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BRANCH PLANS TECH TREK FUNDRAISER TO FUND 2021 CAMPERS

The Santa Cruz County Branch of AAUW is holding an Opportunity Drawing as a fundraiser to support their Tech Trek candidates at next Summer's camp.

All of the prizes feature businesses in the Santa Cruz/Aptos/Watsonville area.

Grand prize is a two night stay (midweek) at Sand Rock Farm, a very special local getaway (www.sandrockfarm.com), and several gift certificates from various local Aptos restaurants who have outside seating and/or food pick up.

The second prize, Wine Tasting at Nicholson's Vineyard is set up perfectly for social distancing and offers an open barn tasting room with a large outside picnic area among their vineyard and olive trees.

Additional prizes include Gift Certificates from Aladdin Nursery and Dig Gardens and a Goodie Tote filled with Suffrage Centennial Items.

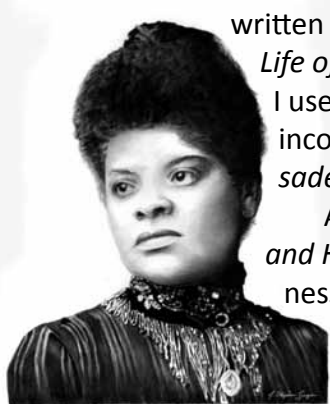
Prize winners will be drawn at the end of Santa Cruz Branch September 26 AAUW online meeting and winners will be notified by email and the USPS. Gift Certificates for the various prizes will be mailed to the winners. Thank you so very much for supporting Tech Trek. Grand prize has a one-year validity. Others can be used any time.

The flyer and entry form can be accessed here:
<https://santacruz-ca.aauw.net/files/2020/08/Tech-Trek-Opportunity-Drawing.pdf>

The Branch is losing our storage space at the Baptist Church. Although several members have spent considerable time sorting and organizing our archives and discarding unused items, we still need space for a four-drawer file cabinet. We are looking for someone with storage space for the file cabinet, and some strong backs to do the moving. If you have any space to spare, or some strong kids or grandkids, neighbor kids or ?, who are willing to help, please let Marcia Baugh know at 650-493-5125 or marciadbaugh@att.net. Marcia also is looking for a home for 3 large coffee urns which are no longer used and will be given away. We expect we will have to complete this in the next month or so. Please let us know if you can help.

IDA B. WELLS AND HER ANTI-LYNCHING CAMPAIGN

We remember the inspiring speeches of Martin Luther King and we honor the courage and endurance of John Lewis at the Selma bridge but it is only recently, when the Pulitzer prize committee gave her a posthumous award for her work, that I have looked for information on Ida B. Wells, a black journalist and activist. There are now several books available about Ida Wells: her granddaughter, Michelle Duster has written *Ida in Her Own Words*, and Mia Bay has



written *To Tell the Truth Freely: The Life of Ida B. Wells*. Much of what I use below is from Wells' own incomplete autobiography *Crusade for Justice*.

As editor of the *Free Press and Headlight* in Memphis, Tennessee, Ms. Wells reported on lynchings of black men, writing two pamphlets: "Southern Horrors" and

"The Red Record". This last was a detailed report about lynchings that Ms. Wells had researched during the period of 1892-1893 when white mobs used violence and fear to control African Americans. After a mob burnt down her paper in Memphis, Ida chose to move to Chicago, where she continued her activism.

Much of what she did was political, traveling to attend conferences, sometimes having to nurse her baby in a back stage room in the intervals. As more black people moved to Chicago she worked with various organizations to aid them, finding them accommodation and organizing a reading room.

She traveled a number of times to England to speak before English church congregations that had provided strong support to her anti-lynching campaign. On the other hand, she was critical of the self-righteous white Christian temperance leaders who approved of lynching as "a reasonable response to the threat that Black men posed to White women!" She directly questioned Susan B. Anthony's tactic of excluding Black women from the suffrage movement in order to appease southern White women. Clearly, Ida B. Wells was a woman who spoke her mind.

Barbara Evans

AAUW CA STRENGTHENS COMMITMENT TO INCREASING EQUITY FOR BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS

In 2020, a widespread protest movement has emerged, clearly and loudly demanding greater racial equity through systemic change. This protest movement is in line with the core mission of AAUW: "To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy." How are these two aligned? AAUW's central mission statement implies a focus on ALL women and girls. To achieve this mission, we must demand greater equity for Black women and girls.

At the national level, AAUW has acknowledged that the organization has historically fallen short of this goal, as it has lacked diversity and inclusion in leadership, membership, and focus. AAUW has taken concrete steps to create organizational change, to better address their mission of serving all women.

Individual AAUW members can also take concrete steps to make sure that the inclusive mission of AAUW is made into a reality—here with a specific focus on racial equity for Black women and girls. One way this can be done is through white members learning about and engaging in anti-racism and white ally-ship.

Anti-racism is the active practice of calling out racism when it is encountered, which may include having uncomfortable conversations about race and racism in everyday life. Non-racism, the internal and often silent opposition to racism, is positive, but it is not enough to create necessary change. Related to anti-racism is white ally-ship. White allies are people who make the long-term commitments and efforts necessary to recognize their racially based privilege and who continually work in solidarity with oppressed groups engaged in institutional and political struggles for justice.

We hope you will join AAUW CA's webinar on August 26th to learn what concrete steps you can take to ensure that the inclusive mission of AAUW will someday become a reality.

Melissa Maceyko, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

You can access the August 26th webinar here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I7Vq5PF2Q76YC-Q3j-6GmA

BRANCH MEMBER CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Katie Causey, a member of Palo Alto AAUW, is a candidate for the School Board of PAUSD in the November election. She is a native of Palo Alto, a graduate of Palo Alto High School (2012) and George Washington University.

Causey said she began to consider running for local office when she was a freshman at Paly. It was the year of several student deaths by suicide.

She wrote to the Palo Alto Weekly, "I know many alumni from that period who have had ongoing conversations about potentially running to highlight mental health and civic engagement."

While a student at George Washington University, she studied inequality and discrimination in communities and schools through a degree in Women's Studies. She attended the local school board meetings and compiled a list of ideas she wanted to see implemented in her own school district.

For additional information:

<https://www.katiecausey.org/>



Branch members were saddened when Misao Sakamoto, a long-time member, died on March 30, just 9 days short of her 100th birthday. She was born and raised in Honokaa, Hawaii, one of eight siblings. She graduated from the University of Hawaii in Sociology and after WWII ended worked as a civilian under the MacArthur administration during reconstruction. After moving to Palo Alto, she and her husband Cal raised three children. She worked for many years as a social worker for Santa Clara County. We all admired her early morning swim schedule and enjoyed her hospitality to the Gadabouts group.

VOTING RIGHTS: WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Voter Access:

Voting is a fundamental American right, yet exercising that right isn't always easy. Certain jurisdictions attempt to restrict voting under the guise of preventing "voter fraud," even though that is an extremely rare occurrence. Rather than restrict voting, we need to prioritize expanding options for casting a ballot, particularly as the pandemic threatens to hinder some voters' ability to turn out at the polls on a single day.

How you can help: Ask two critical questions: 1.) Is an absentee ballot available so that I can vote safely during the public health crisis? 2.) What is being done to ensure safe and broadly accessible elections for all?

Getting out the Vote

Increasing voter turnout is a top priority for the 2020 election. The more people who vote, the better our representative democracy will function. You can help get out the vote (GOTV) by making sure that all eligible voters are registered (and their registration is current) and that they know how and where to cast their ballot. As election day draws closer, check to see if voters have all the information they need. Do they know which polling places are open and ready for people to go in safely? Are they able to request an absentee ballot, and if so, have they requested it by their jurisdiction's deadlines? Do they know how to send in the ballot itself and by what day it needs to be postmarked?

What you can do: Personal connections are most effective to inspire voters. Use targeted phone calls and social media outreach. Connect with activists in your community to get involved with phone and text banking. Write postcards and letters to voters, sending them by mail or via no-contact drop-off. Whenever possible, keep your messaging personal and direct.

Voter Education

The more voters know about the candidates we elect – and where they stand on important issues – the more likely we are to choose leaders whose views align with our own. This is the time to start direct conversations about specific voter issues and help people understand what's at stake.

What you can do: In addition to educating yourself on what's at stake in the 2020 election, you can help educate others by partnering with advocacy groups or like-minded people in your community to host an "Issues Forum." These can be panel discussions with experts, tele-town halls with candidates, or even a smaller conversation within your social network. Remind everyone that our economic security, education, and reproductive & general health depend on the results.