



# BAY LEAVES

AAUW/San Mateo

<http://sanmateo-ca.aauw.net>

November 2018, Vol 89, Issue 3

## Co-Presidents' Message

Ramona Raybin and Jane Bradley

### "I Voted"

Over the next few weeks, we will be bombarded with political advertising in the mail, in our email, and on TV and radio. As you sort through these conflicting and sometimes misleading messages, please consider how important it is to not tune them out. The causes that AAUW espouses - gender equality, education for all, Title IX, need to be considered when you evaluate the candidates, their positions and the ballot initiatives. Of course only a few tie directly back to AAUW's issues and goals but in the broader scheme, they all matter to us as citizens in a democracy that we are working to improve for all.

As for the incumbent candidates and their challengers, take a few minutes to find out how they have voted, particularly on issues affecting women and girls. With access to the internet, your ability to determine where they stand is unprecedented and takes little effort and time. A good website for candidate information is <https://votersedge.org/ca>.

Regarding the ballot initiatives, there are 11 on the California ballot this year. AAUW has taken a stand on some, not on others. There are many places on the internet to read the propositions including [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)--public policy section and the California Secretary of State website [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov) - voter information. There are also many offline sources of information such as League of Women Voters Pros and Cons pamphlet, the Official California Voter pamphlet that you received from the Secretary of State Office and others. If you are uncertain about which of the propositions you want to support or oppose, there are plenty of resources available to assist you in making educated decisions.

What is most important is that you take a few minutes out of your busy life to reflect on what it means to have the privilege to vote which was denied to women in the U.S. until the last century and is still denied to millions in other regions of the world. Go to the polls, mail your ballot, either way, *make sure YOU vote!*

## San Mateo Branch 2018-2019 Calendar

Please Save the Dates!

- Nov 10 Legion of Honor Docent Presentation  
SMCCCD Board Room, 3401 CSM Dr, SM  
*Jewels of the Maharajas* 1:00 pm
- Jan 12 Sheryl Rinkol, author of *Titanic Today*  
*Women's role in the Titanic era*, 1:00 pm  
SMCCCD Board Room, 3401 CSM Dr, SM
- April 26 Annual Meeting and Fundraiser  
Speaker Mary Jo Ignoffo,  
author of *Captive of the Labyrinth*,  
a biography of Sarah Winchester  
College Heights Church,  
1150 W Hillsdale Blvd, SM, 11:30 am

## Membership

### Welcome Back to our Returning Member

Linda Scheifler Marks

Linda is a graduate of UC, Berkeley '73, and received a Masters in Art Conservation '79, from Queen's University. She has worked for museums, including the SF Asian, and has been a business continuity planner, and is currently a real estate broker.

### Membership as of Oct 1, 2018:

Members	115
50-year members	25
Total members	140

Consider inviting one of your friends to an interest section that you enjoy to see if they would be interested in joining us. This is the best way to introduce them to all the important work AAUW does to empower women and girls. This is crucial during these times when women's rights are being challenged on all sides. We will continue to feature our Interest Sections in the *Bay Leaves* in this and future issues.

## Featured AAUW Interest Sections

### BOOK GROUP I (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 10:00 am)

Book Group I meets at members' homes. Books are selected by the group in May for the coming year (October - June). We read both fiction and non-fiction. The hostess provides light refreshments. Twice a year we organize a potluck luncheon. For additional information, please contact Elissa James.

### BOOK GROUP II (currently has a wait list; 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at Noon at members' homes)

### BOOK GROUP III (currently has a wait list; 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 1:30 pm at members' homes)

### BOOK GROUP IV (4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 10:00 am)

Book Group IV meets in members' homes all year, including summer. We read fiction, nonfiction, bestsellers and classics; whatever interests the group. Book selection is made each October for the coming year. The members bring books they recommend or would like to read, and the final choices are made by the group. During the year, members take turns reviewing the book and leading discussion (which often "leads itself"). For additional information contact Jan Lamphier.

### MYSTERY BOOK GROUP (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 1:30 pm)

Mystery Book Group meets in members' homes all year. We read mystery books ranging from cozy mysteries such as Agatha Christie, mysteries based on true stories, and police procedural mysteries, among others. The stories can take place in any country at any time in history. The books are selected in October for the next calendar year. For additional information contact Mikki Coffino.

## AAUW CA 2018 Legislative Update

From the AAUW of California website

If you've been tracking AAUW California legislation in the last few years, you'll note the number of bills related to closing the gender pay gap. We've made tremendous headway since 2015 working with the *Stronger California* coalition. The Fair Pay Act has been improved (SB 358-2015, SB 1063-2016) and California now limits the use of one's prior salary to establish a new salary. Just this year, an additional refinement was made (AB 2282, Eggman) so there is no doubt, an employer cannot inquire or use one's prior salary.

There are still other areas to be addressed, including pay data transparency so that employers and the public can better understand a company's pay

practices. Unfortunately, our co-sponsored bill on this issue (SB 1284, Jackson) was stalled in the legislative process this year.

Momentum on the equal pay bills was assisted by the #MeToo movement and awareness that sexual harassment is fueled by disproportionate power dynamics, as is the gender pay gap. Many bills made it to the Governor's desk, with mixed results. Most importantly, Governor Brown signed a bill addressing discrimination and harassment in the workplace, also known as the "no free grope" bill (SB 1300, Jackson).

Our work is not done. We'll be back to work with the new Governor to accomplish all that needs to be done to make California a bastion of equity and fairness for women. For a full list of our bills, go to our website <http://www.aauw-ca.org/bill-tracking>.

## East Meets West: Jewels of the Maharajas

Legion of Honor, Exhibit, Nov. 3, 2018 - Feb. 24, 2019



We have the privilege to hear Julia Geist, a docent from the Legion of Honor to introduce us to this gorgeous exhibition featuring the precious jewels and gems from India. This presentation will be on November 10 beginning at 1 pm at the SMCCCD Board Room, 3401 CSM Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403. This will be a joint meeting with the Mid-Peninsula Branch.

This exhibition explores the cultural and material exchanges between India and Europe through jewelry and precious objects ranging from the seventeenth century to the present. It features more than 150 pieces made in India or Europe associated with maharajas or their courts. These objects include jewelry to be worn on ceremonial occasions, weapons such as swords and daggers, and precious works of art for display or use.

Moreover, gender plays a significant role in this exhibition as, contrary to Western expectations, the most splendid jewelry was supplied exclusively for the male rulers of India. Great pieces of jewelry conceived to adorn the queens of Europe, such as Catherine the Great of Russia or the Empress Eugenie of France, could be happily worn by male maharajas in India.

## Tech Trek

Maureen Buchner

Special thanks to Anne Horgan, Judy Steele, Elissa James, Gerhild Klein, Gayle Hardt, Ramona Raybin and Jane Bradley for helping make the Tech Trek Brunch a success.

We heard from Nellyana Altuve, our NCCWSL scholarship winner, who shared about great workshops she attended while at the University of Maryland. This was her first time seeing Washington, DC. She truly enjoyed the leadership training and the boost to her understanding of politics.

The Tech Trek Campers (current 8th graders) regaled us with highlights of their week living on the Stanford campus. They discussed a bit of chemistry lab, engineering, coding, cyber security, marine biology (squid dissection), and crime scene investigation. Two absolute favorites were film animation lighting with Danielle Feinberg and astronomy night with Santa Clara County Astronomers. You can see Danielle Feinberg's TED talk on You Tube.

Nola Masterson told us a bit about her career in bioscience and her current angel venture to help women start their own companies. Three education levels were heard from: middle school students, a college student in political science, and a woman helping women create their own companies!

### Donate to Tech Trek

Each year we hope to send 8 girls from our local school district to a week of hands-on science and technology camp. Now we have a new tax law, BUT our costs are still the same: \$1,000.00 for each student. Each camper pays \$50.00, if her family can afford it. Your support in the past has been great. Let's keep working on getting more girls interested in pursuing science and math classes in high school so that they have a full circle of choices in college and careers!

Send checks made out to *AAUW CA SPF* to Maureen Buchner. If you have retirement distributions, you can lower your total income by sending a check from your retirement account to AAUW CA SPF. This would be in addition to any standard deduction. Or, consider setting up a scholarship in your name for Tech Trek as one of our members did last year. The SM Tech Trek Committee thanks our donors for their dedication.

## Scholarship Committee – Help Needed

Jane Bradley

One of the most fulfilling volunteer opportunities in our branch is serving on the committee to choose the San Mateo County Community College District students who will receive scholarships to further their education. The job involves reading student applications and interviewing candidates in April. The committee is also in need of a chair to interact with the 3 colleges--CSM Cañada and Skyline, assign members to read applications and to schedule and attend the student interviews. The time is minimal and at the discretion of the chair. Please contact Jane Bradley, or Ramona Raybin for more details.

## AAUW Funds

Several of us from the San Mateo Branch attended the AAUW Funds Luncheon on Oct 6<sup>th</sup> at the Basque Cultural Center. It was a very interesting and heart-warming experience. We met the women who have received grants/funds from AAUW Funds. They were so very grateful for the opportunity to further their studies and pay it forward to their community that there were tears among the recipients and the audience! It made us feel very proud.

Several have asked what the AAUW Funds are and what do they do? The AAUW Fund is a general fund for unrestricted gifts, which are used when and where they are most needed. This prevents over-funded and under-funded areas that keep AAUW from reaching our full mission potential. By donating to the AAUW Fund, you are helping to build our highly successful, community-based, mission-driven programs, such as Tech Trek and Tech Savvy, Start Smart and Work Smart, the Legal Advocacy Fund, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, research, and other initiatives.

## Public Policy/Current Events

Betty Bernstein

Public Policy will conclude our series of meetings on immigrant rights when we host M. Stacey Hawver, Executive Director of the Legal Aid of San Mateo County, at our November meeting.

Stacy will talk about the efforts her agency is making to protect the rights of undocumented residents and unaccompanied minors of San Mateo County to remain living here. San Mateo County is at the forefront of helping these residents.

Our meeting will be on Tues. Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 at the home of Diane Silven. All AAUW members and guests are welcome.

## Nov 2018 Interest Sections

Mary Ann McKay

### Boggle (All Members Welcome)

Judy Steele

Wed, Nov 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:30 pm

Host: Judy Steele

### Book Discussion I

Elissa James

Thurs, Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am

Host: Cathy Jensen

*Mudbound*, Hillary Jordan

### Book Discussion II (wait list)

Ramona Raybin

Thurs, Nov 29<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 pm (Date Change)

Host: Ramona Raybin

*In the Midst of Winter*, Isabelle Allende

### Book Discussion III (wait list)

Mary Ann McKay,

Pat Fuetsch,

Thurs, Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 pm

Host: Mary Ann McKay

*From Under the Russian Snow*, Michelle Carter

### Book Discussion IV

Jan Lamphier

Fri, Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am (Date Change)

Host: Maureen Buchner

*Homegoing*, Yaa Gyassi

### Bridge

Elissa James

Mon, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm (Date Change)

Host: Sherrean Rundberg

### California Fact & Legend

Bobbi Benson

Tue, Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am

Host: Lyn Haithcox

Anne Schnoebelen, *The History of Treasure Island*

### Dining Out

Jane Bradley

Wed, Nov 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

Paul Martin's American Grill, Hillsdale Mall

RSVP to Helen Hatchett by Nov 12<sup>th</sup>

### Drama Reading

Marjorie Kobe,

Wed, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am

Host: Gerhild Klein

### Ethnic Dining

Sue Rosenberg

Contact Sue Rosenberg for Ethnic Dining in Nov.

### Ethnic Lunch

Annette Delaney

Wed, Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 am (Time Change)

Holiday Tea at Lovejoy's, 901 Main St., RWC

\$29.45, tax and tip included

RSVP to Annette by Nov 21<sup>st</sup>

### Foreign Affairs - Great Decisions

Margo King

Thurs, Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am

Host: Maureen Buchner

*Global Health: Progress and Challenges*

### Hiking Always 10:00 am year round

Bobbi Benson

Mon, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, Diamond Heights stairway walk,

lead by Betty Bernstein

Mon, Nov 26<sup>th</sup>, Gray Whale Cove Trail, Pacifica

To join us anytime, contact Bobbi Benson

### Mah Jongg

Helen Hatchett

Wed, Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 pm

Tue, Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 pm

Host: Helen Hatchett

### Membership: New and Prospective

Maureen Buchner

### Monday Movie

Mary Ann McKay

Mon, Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, Time TBD

Email Mary Ann McKay to get on the email list

### Mystery Book Group

Mikki Coffino

Fri, Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 pm

Host: Barb Schotzko

*Police at the Funeral*, Margery Allingham

### Public Policy/Current Events

Betty Bernstein

Diane Silven

Tues, Nov 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am

Stacey Hawver, Legal Aid SM County, *Helping Undocumented Residents & Unaccompanied Minors*

Host: Diane Silven

American Association of University Women  
P.O. Box 1465  
San Mateo, CA 94401-0816

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.  
*By joining AAUW you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.*

### November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 AAUW Board Meeting	2	3
4	5 Monday Movie	6 CA Fact & Legend	7 Drama Reading	8 Foreign Affairs	9 Mystery Book Group	10 <i>Jewels of Maharajas</i>
11	12 Bridge Hiking	13 Public Policy	14 Dining Out Mah Jongg	15 Book I Book III	16 Book IV	17
18	19	20	21 Boggle	22 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	23	24
25	26 Hiking	27 Mah Jongg	28 Ethnic Lunch	29 Book II	30	