



BAY LEAVES

AAUW/San Mateo

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

December 2020, Vol 91, Issue 4

President's Message

Judy Steele

The National Election is over (except for final mail-in ballots counting), and we have a new leadership team coming into the White House that includes the **first ever woman of color** in the second highest office in our country - - an election in which women and girls all over the U.S. can take immense pride and inspiration! It is an exciting and historic moment that has been in the making for 100 years with the unprecedented number of voters making their voices heard. But now the real work of healing our divided country begins! And as AAUW members, there will be many opportunities for us to assist and encourage those endeavors.

With Halloween behind us, we are all looking forward to the holidays ahead, although they will be different as never before. However, in spite of the encouraging news of a possible new vaccine on the horizon, many areas of the country are experiencing new surges in Covid-19 cases and deaths, as bad as or worse than any seen so far. Therefore, as you plan your virtual holiday activities, please remember those you know who may not be able to join your Zoom celebrations. They will surely appreciate your efforts to remember and include them.

Some updates from AAUW-California's latest Board meeting include: hiring advocacy and marketing consultants; approving a state-wide virtual summer 2021 Tech Trek experience; and the formation of two task forces for which members are encouraged to volunteer. One of those task forces will be to help determine programs and/or projects for this year and how to acknowledge them, while the other will help plan the State's virtual Annual Meeting set for April 2021. For more information on joining either task force, please contact Sandi Gabe at sandi.gabe@hotmail.com.

The State is also requesting help to finish funding their 2020 donation goal – in particular, their “Greatest Need Fund” which impacts many of their newer programs, such as *Work Smart* and *Start Smart*. If you can, please go to AAUW-CA.org and click on AAUW FUND to make a donation before the end of 2020! And while you are there, please check

out previous and upcoming webinar series on the website, plus consider assisting behind the scenes, by supporting the website/webinars, helping maintain various types of information, and generally helping make AAUW-CA more visible. And, of course, don't forget the State is always looking for a few good members to run for state offices!

Two final notes: AAUW-CA's Public Policy Committee website has had a “face-lift” and can now be found under the title “Public Policy” in place of the previous “Advocacy” tab. Check it out when you have a minute, and let them know how you like the new, simpler format. Secondly, there is an entirely new STEM project being presented by the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch (AAUW-OML) launching on November 22, 2020. This webinar series, called **Girls4STEM**, is for high school girls, particularly former Tech Trekkers, and features young professional women in STEM fields. You may go to: <https://oml-ca.aauw.net/girls4stem-webinars/> for more information and to register for the webinars.

On behalf of your San Mateo Board, I would like to wish all of you a very safe and healthy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays to all! Please continue to social distance and wear your masks!

San Mateo Branch 2021 Calendar

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Jan 20 | Asian Art Museum docent presentation
<i>Lunar New Year, Year of the Ox</i>
Zoom meeting at 1:00 pm |
| Feb 17 | <i>Climate Change Impact on Public Lands</i>
Shelley Silbert, <i>Great Old Broads for Wilderness</i>
Zoom meeting at 1:00 pm |

Please Join Us!

Members will no longer need to email a request to attend branch Zoom programs. All branch members will receive an email invitation to attend with the Zoom link about a week before and the day of the program.

Public Policy/Current Events

Betty Bernstein

Stephanie Katz, who is an AAUW member of both the San Mateo and Mid-Peninsula branches, will be our guest speaker via Zoom on Tuesday, December 8th at 10:30 am. She will talk about her recent adventures as a 2020 census taker.

At first Stephanie had second thoughts about volunteering to work as a census taker in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, but she decided to take on the effort of tracking down some of the elusive men, women and children who had to be reached to successfully complete this year's census goals. The meeting will begin at 10:30 am; the Zoom link will be sent out via e-mail about a week before and the day of the meeting. Everyone is welcome to enjoy her presentation.

Giving Tuesday–December 3rd

Every year, on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, people take the time to kickoff the holiday season by giving back to their community. Whether it is donating money to a charitable cause or volunteering, Giving Tuesday is a day set to benefit the community. The purpose of the day is to inspire people and companies to take action, just like Black Friday and Cyber Monday created a framework for retailers to sell merchandise.

This might be a good time to make a tangible expression of the thanks we gave on Thanksgiving. You might consider AAUW-CA's *Greatest Need Fund* or any charity you support.

Climate Change Impact on Public Lands and our Lives

Shelley Silbert, executive director of Great Old Broads for Wilderness, will speak to us about *Climate Change: Its Impact on Public Lands and Our Lives* in February. Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a national grassroots organization—led by women—that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Great Old Broads trains and supports women as grassroots leaders and advocates for 40 grassroots chapters across the country. The Zoom meeting will be on Feb. 17th at 1:00 pm. If you would like more information about the group, their website is: <https://www.greatoldbroads.org/>.

AAUW Statement on the Election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris

The following is a statement from AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches:

The nation's voters have spoken, and a historic election is over: Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, Americans cast their ballots in record numbers and elected Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to lead our nation forward.

All of us at AAUW are honored to have witnessed – and participated in – the power of our democracy, with impressive numbers of women, people of color and young Americans joining in with their voices and their votes.

AAUW is particularly heartened and inspired by the election of so many women to positions of power. Most notably, we celebrate the fact that Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has shattered barriers, becoming the first Black American, Indian and South Asian American to assume the second highest office in the land. The daughter of immigrants and a graduate of Howard University, she gives us hope for a future where women can reach the highest heights.

We are also encouraged by President-elect Biden's promise to unite our sorely divided country and to find common ground and common good. Yet we are mindful of the challenges and the work that lie ahead. In 2021, AAUW will turn 140 years old, and as we have in every year prior, we will work tirelessly on behalf of women and girls to advance laws, policies and practices that ensure equity in education, employment and economic security – and equal justice for all.

Guidelines for Holiday Gatherings

San Francisco Chronicle, Nov 9, 2020; updated Nov 12, 2020

Although the public health officials in California are discouraging any gatherings during the surge in Covid-19 cases, they have established these guidelines for those who want to host other households for the holidays.

- No more than 3 households at each gathering
- Less than two hours long
- Gatherings must be held outside
- Hosts must collect contact information from all attending
- Everyone is required to wear face coverings and maintain social distance

These guidelines may change if the county where you gather reverts to the Purple Tier. Please continue to check if these guidelines change between now and the Holidays.

December 2020 Interest Sections

Mary Ann McKay

Boggle (All Members Welcome)

Judy Steele

During the Corona Virus pandemic, Boggle will not be meeting.

Book Discussion I

Elissa James

Thurs. Dec 17th, at 10:00 am

Book I will be meeting by Zoom.

Dreaming in Cuban, Christina Garcia

Book Discussion II (wait list)

Karlyn Schneider

Thurs, Dec 3rd, at 12:30 pm (Date Change)

Book II will be meeting by Zoom.

Leadership in Turbulent Times, Doris Goodwin

Book Discussion III (wait list)

Mary Ann McKay

Pat Fuetsch

(No Meeting in December)

Book Discussion IV

Jan Lamphier

Fri, Dec 18th, at 10:00 am (Date Change)

Book IV will be meeting by Zoom.

I know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou

Bridge

Elissa James

During the Corona Virus pandemic, Bridge will not be meeting.

California Fact & Legend

Bobbi Benson

Tue, Dec 1st at 10:10 am (Time change)

California Fact & Legend will be meeting by Zoom.

Dining Out

Jane Bradley

During the Corona Virus pandemic, Dining Out will not be meeting.

Drama Reading

Marjorie Kobe

Wed, Dec 9th, at 9:30 am

Drama Reading will be meeting by Zoom.

Ethnic Dining

During the Corona Virus pandemic, Ethnic Dining will not be meeting.

Ethnic Lunch

Annette Delaney

During the Corona Virus pandemic, Ethnic Lunch will not be meeting.

Foreign Affairs - Great Decisions

Margo King

Thurs, Dec 10th, 10:30 am

Foreign Affairs will be meeting by Zoom.

Grand Illusions, NY Review of Books

Hiking 2nd Monday, 10:00 am

Bobbi Benson

Mon, Dec 14th, 10:00 am

We take easy, short walks, masks on, in safe areas that we drive to separately. Contact Bobbi Benson to find out the next location.

Mah Jongg

Helen Hatchett

During the Corona Virus pandemic, Mah Jongg will not be meeting.

Membership: New and Prospective

Maureen Buchner

Mary Ann McKay

Monday Movie

Mary Ann McKay

During the Corona Virus pandemic, Monday Movie will not be meeting.

Mystery Book Group

Mikki Coffino

Fri, Dec 4th, at 1:30 pm (Date Change)

Mystery Book will be meeting by Zoom.

The Banker's Wife, Christina Alger

Public Policy/Current Events

Betty Bernstein

Diane Silven

Tues, Dec 8th, 10:30 am

Public Policy will be meeting by Zoom.

Stephanie Katz, *The 2020 Census*

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

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

By joining AAUW you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>Giving Tuesday</i> California Fact and Legend	2	3 AAUW Board Meeting Book II	4 Mystery Book Group	5
6	7	8 Public Policy	9 Drama Reading	10 <i>Hanukkah</i> <i>begins</i> Foreign Affairs	11	12
13	14 Hiking	15	16	17 Book I	18 <i>Hanukkah</i> <i>ends</i> Book IV	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 <i>Christmas</i>	26 <i>Kwanzaa begins</i>
27	28	29	30	31		