



BAY LEAVES

AAUW/San Mateo

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

January 2021, Vol 91, Issue 5

President's Message

Judy Steele

The Board of Directors and I wish you all a **Happy and Healthy New Year!** Much that has surrounded us in 2020 has been beyond our control, not at all matching our hopes for our personal world or the larger world around us. However, as we begin 2021, let's take a moment to be grateful for all our blessings and hopeful that the New Year brings us new possibilities, including seeing everyone in person again, maybe in the summer or fall, as well as continuing our support to girls and women through our various AAUW programs. In addition, we hope to see progress on many fronts by expanding our awareness of the needs and achievements of others in our community and of women's rights throughout the world.

Perhaps as a New Year's resolution, we may consider what we personally could do to support young women in our community. Whether it is volunteering to serve on our Board or on the Branch Scholarship Committee; by supporting Tech Trek or Speech Trek; or helping interview candidates for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), your involvement will be both rewarding and welcomed.

You might also consider that AAUW California will be conducting their first virtual **Lobby Day** with our legislators in Sacramento on March 24, 2021. This is a terrific opportunity for branch members to get involved in the public policy process by helping the state Public Policy Committee advance our legislative goals for 2021-22. It will also be a great way to meet your local legislators and "let them know how you, through AAUW, are helping their constituents in your communities." All interested branch members, please register no later than January 8, 2021, at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/56JT7XF>. In addition, all participants will be given full training in a Zoom webinar on March 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Go to AAUW-CA.org and look under 2020-21 Webinars to register for "How to Talk to Your Legislators."

And, of course, don't forget to attend our own upcoming Branch functions and meetings, as listed later in this newsletter. In the meantime, **have a**

wonderful and safe holiday season everyone! Be kind to yourselves and to others, and please keep wearing those masks!

San Mateo Branch 2021 Calendar

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|--------|--|
| 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 & Invite a Friend!

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 before the program. You may share these Zoom invitations with your friends to encourage them to join the San Mateo Branch of AAUW.

Public Policy/Current Events

Betty Bernstein

Countering the Effects of Climate Change and Its Effect on Rising Coastal Tides in San Mateo County will be the subject of our Public Policy/Current Events program on Monday, January 11th at 1:00 pm. Supervisor David Pine's presentation will be on Zoom on the 2nd **Monday** rather than Tuesday so that it doesn't interfere with his attendance at the county's board meeting on Tuesday.

Supervisor Pine is a leading authority on this subject and is actively involved as a member of the Flooding and Sea Level Rise District in the county. He is especially knowledgeable about the climate change's effect on low lying areas of the county. You will be sent a Zoom invitation a week before and the day before the presentation. Please join us to discuss this very important aspect of climate change. You may share the Zoom invitation with your friends if you like.

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, you can find their website at: <https://www.greatoldbroads.org/>.

Lunar New Year, Asian Art Museum Presentation

In preparation to greet the New Year, 2021, we are excited to have a docent from the Asian Art Museum talk to us about the Lunar calendar. According to the Chinese calendar, 2021 will be the Year of the Ox, a highly valued animal in agriculture, characterized by honesty, hard work and perseverance! We will hear about centuries-old symbols and traditions, as well as food, customs and superstitions. It is believed that on the 5th day of the New Year the gods of prosperity come down from the heavens.

The ancient Chinese lunar calendar, on which Chinese New Year is based, functioned as a religious, dynastic and social guide. Oracle bones inscribed with astronomical records indicate that the calendar existed as early as 14th century B.C. when the Shang Dynasty was in power.

Chinese New Year typically begins with the new moon that occurs between the end of January and the end of February, and it lasts about 15 days, until the full moon arrives with the Festival of Lanterns.

This is a Zoom presentation is on Wednesday, Jan 20th beginning at 1:00 pm. A Zoom invitation will be sent to all members. Please feel free to send the invitation to a friend. This might be a good opportunity to show them some of the benefits of joining AAUW.

Speech Trek 2021

The San Mateo Branch is interested in supporting Speech Trek for High School Students in San Mateo. Speech Trek gives interested high-schoolers a chance to create and give an original speech on a specific topic for a chance to win 1 of 5 monetary prizes ranging from \$250 to \$1,500. This year the topic is: *Has social media helped or hindered the breaking down of barriers for women and girls?*

In order to support this project, the Branch will need a coordinator and committee to announce the contest, interview those interested, and hold the local contest via video. If you are interested in coordinating or joining this committee, please contact Judy Steele.

Speech Trek was established by AAUW-CA in 2007. In 2009, it was renamed the Eleanor Stem Allen Memorial Speech Trek Contest in honor and memory of an AAUW member and teacher who recognized the importance of public speaking skills in teaching students about issues that matter to AAUW, and in gratitude to her family for providing ongoing financial support for the project. The Allen family concluded its sponsorship of Speech Trek with the 2020 contest. A new sponsor will support the contest beginning with Speech Trek 2021.

Speech Trek is open to all high school students in California. The contest is open to girls and boys enrolled in any public and private high schools, as well as home schooled-students.

San Mateo County Under Regional Stay-at-Home Order

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations surge and ICU capacity declines, San Mateo and 10 other Bay Area counties are under a mandatory Regional Stay-at-Home Order that takes effect Thursday, Dec. 17th, at 11:59 pm.

The order prohibits private gatherings of any size, except for outdoor church services and political demonstrations. Restaurants must stop offering in-person dining and can offer only take-out and delivery.

Many businesses and activities must close, including salons and barbershops. Retail can remain open at 20 percent capacity. Nonessential travel and the use of hotels or short-term rentals for leisure is banned.

January 2021 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. Jan 21st, at 10:00 am

Book I will be meeting by Zoom.

A Long Petal of the Sea, Isabel Allende

Book Discussion II (wait list)

Karlyn Schneider

Thurs, Jan 28th, at 12:30 pm

Book II will be meeting by Zoom.

The Last Days of Night, Graham Moore

Book Discussion III (wait list)

Mary Ann McKay

Pat Fuetsch

Thurs Jan 21st 1:30 pm

Book III will be meeting by Zoom.

Chances Are, Richard Russo

Book Discussion IV

Jan Lamphier

Fri, Jan 22nd, at 10:00 am

Book IV will be meeting by Zoom.

Dutch House, Anne Patchett

Bridge

Elissa James

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

California Fact & Legend

Bobbi Benson

Tue, Jan 5th 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, Jan 13th, 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, Jan 14th, 10:30 am

Foreign Affairs will be meeting by Zoom.

Topic, TBD, please contact Margo for more information

Hiking 2nd Monday, 10:00 am

Bobbi Benson

Mon, Jan 11th, 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, Jan 8th, at 1:30 pm

Mystery Book will be meeting by Zoom.

All the Devils are Here, Louise Penny

Public Policy/Current Events

Betty Bernstein

Diane Silven

Mon, Jan 11th, 1:00 pm (Date & Time Change)

Public Policy will be meeting by Zoom.

Supervisor David Pine, *Climate Change in San Mateo County*

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.

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2
3	4	5 CA Fact & Legend	6	7 AAUW Board Meeting	8 Mystery Book Group	9
10	11 Hiking Public Policy	12	13 Drama Reading	14 Foreign Affairs	15	16
17	18 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>	19	20 <i>Inauguration Day</i> Asian Art Museum Docent	21 Book I Book III	22 Book IV	23
24	25	26	27	28 Book II	29	30
31						