



# BAY LEAVES

AAUW/San Mateo

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

February 2021, Vol 91, Issue 6

## President's Message

Judy Steele

So, 2021 is here at last and there is definitely "a light at the end of the tunnel!" We all have a renewed sense of hope, from the new and diverse Administration in Washington (with our first-ever woman VP!), to the new vaccines designed to help control (maybe end?) the pandemic. It is also now time to think about putting together our Board members for next year. As mentioned in previous years, our goal is to have two people for each elected position: President, VPs for Membership and Programs, Recording Secretary, and Financial officer. These are great opportunities to help support and advance our Branch's work for women and girls.

Since many of us hope to be able to start traveling again later this year or have other obligations that may preclude us from attending all Board meetings, having a second person sharing a position allows all to feel less pressure in that office and help bring new ideas and fun into the Branch and Board. We have a great need for more members to step up and take on leadership roles if we hope to keep our Branch vital, involved and forward thinking. We only meet 10 times a year, on the first Thursday of the month, and for the foreseeable future, it is through Zoom so no driving required. Please consider saying "yes" if you are asked to serve, or feel free to step up and volunteer to help.

It is time to look ahead to the brighter days to come. Do you have an idea for a new branch program or project? Talk to one of our Board members, or, better yet, become one yourself! Are you interested in what other branches are doing? Go onto AAUW-CA.org and click on 2020-2021-Webinars for recent and upcoming titles, which cover a wide range of topics. And one other note, this year our Board has decided to participate in the state Speech Trek project, which is a speaking contest for all California high school students. Anyone interested in assisting in this project or wanting more information, please contact Judy Steele or Mary Ann McKay.

And finally, wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day from all of us on your San Mateo Board of Directors!

## San Mateo Branch 2021 Calendar

- Feb 17 *Climate Change Impact on Public Lands*  
Shelley Silbert, *Great Old Broads for Wilderness*  
Zoom meeting at 1:00 pm
- March 24 The Photography of Jessamine Spear Johnson, *The Changing West*  
Presented by granddaughter, Tempe Javitz, Zoom meeting at 1:00 pm
- April 14 Annual Meeting, Election of Officers  
Zoom meeting at 1:00 pm

## Sisters-In-Crime Meeting Invitation

Sunnyvale/Cupertino Branch annual "Sisters in Crime" fundraiser program for LAF will be on Thursday, Feb. 11, from 7-9 pm. The four authors speaking are: Josie Brown, Michele Drier, Catriana McPherson and Camille Minichini. Zoom information will be provided around Feb 9 to those who send a check (suggested donation \$10) to Caroline Hui made out to AAUW Funds with LAF in the memo line and include your email address.

## Public Policy/Current Events

Betty Bernstein

The Public Policy Group will hear Millbrae Mayor, Ann Schneider, talk about recycling and other local issues. Those of us who enjoyed our October 2018 tour of the Recology recycling center in San Carlos will have a special interest in hearing Ann talk about the current status of recycling in San Mateo County. She also will speak about other subjects of concern including the status of high-speed rail, housing plans and a proposal to create a biotech business center near the BART and Caltrain stations in Millbrae.

Among her duties as a public official, Ann has been a member of the Statewide Commission for Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling. Ann's presentation will be on Zoom on Tues. Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Please invite your friends to join us by sending them the Zoom link.

## The Changing West Photographs of Jessamine Spear Johnson

Tempe Javitz is the granddaughter of Montana photographer, Jessamine Spear Johnson (1886-1978). Since 2007, Tempe has worked to preserve Jessamine's massive legacy, which includes 34 boxes of photos, in addition to diaries and genealogical notes. Tempe will tell us about her experience of conserving and cataloging Jessamine's photos, while showing us Jessamine's impressive techniques and her wide breadth of themes. Her photo collection encompasses portraits; landscapes; botanicals; historical sites; silhouettes she titled *Skyliners*; candid shots; and even still life compositions from the early 1900's through the 1950's.

Tempe grew up in southeastern Montana at the Spear O Ranch in Kirby, Montana. She graduated from Scripps College in Claremont, California with a BA in English Literature and a minor in Humanities. She and her husband, Hal, have lived in the Bay Area since 1971. At the time of her retirement, Tempe had been a State Farm Insurance agent for 27 years in Palo Alto.

Currently, Tempe is writing a book about Jessamine's life and photography. Like her grandmother, Tempe has been an avid photographer since her grandmother gave her a camera when she was eight years old.

## Recently Discovered San Mateo Branch Directories

Jane Bradley

Our Branch recently received two fascinating documents: Branch directories for the years 1948-49 and 1949-50. They belonged to deceased member Ruth Wade, who lived on Warren Road, San Mateo.

We can learn about post-World War II life for women in the communities of the Peninsula from the directories. Our Branch was organized in 1931. By 1949, the Burlingame-San Mateo-Hillsborough Branch had about 660 members including from Millbrae, Menlo Park, Los Altos and South San Francisco. It was a prosperous time in San Mateo, and women were encouraged to stay home. In the directory women are listed by their husband's name with their first name in parentheses, with few single women. What all members have in common is a college degree and sometimes graduate school. According to Wikipedia, in 1950, twenty-three percent of women in the United States had a college education. Years before Betty Friedan, the Branch had a *Status of Women* Committee with three members. Popular committees were the Social Studies Committee with 26 members and the

Hospitality Committee with 22 members. Recent graduates received special attention with their own committee chair, bridge and book sections, and a telephone committee of mostly single women.

The Branch offered numerous interest sections, and then as now, the most popular activities were bridge and book group. In 1949, the Branch offered eight book sections (four in the evening), including a modern book section. The Branch had 18 bridge sections, including several in the evening. Other sections were similar to what the Branch has now: Peninsula Fact and Legend is now California Fact and Legend and Current Drama can be compared to our Drama Reading group. In 1949, the Branch had one Spanish section which the Mid-Peninsula Branch continues.

Great attention was paid to the Arts. A member could join a creative writing, drawing or a painting group, or study music appreciation. They could learn about interior decorating and flower arranging; or talk about or shop for antiques, ceramics and silver items. For the gardening enthusiasts, there was a chance to work on the garden committee's exhibit of "A Sunny Garden" at the San Mateo County Fiesta.

General meetings were held on the second Monday of each month at 8:00 pm. Executive Board meetings were held the Thursday preceding the General meeting at 9:30 am.

I spoke with Barb Schotzko who joined the Branch soon after she moved to the area in 1953. Barb said she joined the Branch because of the baby-sitting co-op. She was dismayed to learn she could not become a full member because her pharmacy degree from Oregon State was considered too technical, traditionally male, and not the sort of education the AAUW organization valued. She was allowed only to become an Associate member. AAUW eventually changed the policy to recognize full membership to women graduating from accredited colleges when she was granted full membership status. In the 1949-50 directory 79 women were Associate Members.

These historic year-books will go to the San Mateo History Museum in the old County Courthouse where the Branch's materials are archived.

## In Memoriam

Branch member, Eve Visconti, passed away just after the first of the year. She was a member of Ethnic Lunch, Movie Group, and Book Group IV. Music was integral to Eve's life. She served on the Board and was a singer for the Peninsula Musical Arts Assoc. Eve loved writing and tutoring, too. This included reviewing movies for the San Mateo Daily. She also volunteered with Mission Hospice for 5 years as a grief counselor. Eve is survived by her husband and son.

## 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, 579-2901, elissajames@comcast.net

Thurs, Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am

Book I will be meeting by Zoom.

*Talking to Strangers*, Malcom Gladwell

### Book Discussion II (wait list)

Karlyn Schneider

Thurs, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 pm

Book II will be meeting by Zoom.

*The Education of an Idealist*, Samatha Powers

### Book Discussion III (wait list)

Mary Ann McKay

Pat Fuetsch

Thurs, Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 1:30 pm

Book III will be meeting by Zoom.

*Night Watchman*, Louise Erdrich

### Book Discussion IV

Jan Lamphier, 341-8564, lamphier@myastound.net

Fri, Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am

Book IV will be meeting by Zoom.

*Trespasser*, Tana French

### Bridge

Elissa James

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

### California Fact & Legend

Bobbi Benson

Tue, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, 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, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am

Foreign Affairs will be meeting by Zoom.

*Global Supply Chains & U.S. National Security*

### Hiking 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 10:00 am

Bobbi Benson

Mon, Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 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, Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 pm

Mystery Book will be meeting by Zoom.

*The Distant Dead*, Heather Young

### Public Policy/Current Events

Betty Bernstein

Diane Silven

Tues, Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 pm

Public Policy will be meeting by Zoom.

Millbrae Mayor Ann Schneider, *Recycling, Housing & Bio-Tech 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.*

**February 2021**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 CA Fact & Legend	3	4 AAUW Board Meeting	5	6
7	8 Hiking	9 Public Policy	10 Drama Reading	11 Foreign Affairs	12 Mystery Book Group	13
14	15 Presidents' Day	16	17 Climate Change Meeting	18 Book I Book III	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Book II	26 Book IV	27
28						