



BAY LEAVES

AAUW/San Mateo

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

April 2021, Vol 91, Issue 8

President's Message

Judy Steele

April has always been a busy month for AAUW with scholarship, NCCWSL and Tech Trek interviews and selections and election of officers. This year is no different in spite of the ongoing pandemic.

Although we chose not to participate in this year's virtual Tech Trek program, your Board has decided to support up to 19 young women to participate in the virtual NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) seminars on May 25-26. Many thanks to Annette Delaney and Margo King

In addition, the Board approved giving out ten scholarships of \$5,000 each to qualifying Community College students going on to 4-year schools. (In previous years, we gave out five scholarships from our Ethel Gayman Endowment Fund, plus one from the Kathleen Smith Fund, which was used up last year.) Major kudos to Jane Bradley, her co-chair, Judy Bloom and their amazing team of reviewers!

Then, starting April 7th, all AAUW members across the nation will decide whether to open our membership to everyone who wants to join us and help with our mission of education and equity for women and girls.

"AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity, yet the requirement for membership explicitly denies access to membership to those without college degrees. AAUW does not promote equity for all women and girls if the organization maintains exclusionary membership requirements. The membership requirement is not fair, is not right, and is not equity. Changing this is simply the right thing to do. The Student Associates clause will also be removed as students would become eligible for full membership with the elimination of the degree requirement."

A sense of belonging is critical for AAUW members to feel valued. AAUW has a new interactive DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) Toolkit which includes the following explanation in the key terms and concepts section. "**Diversity** (those characteristics that make us unique) is only the beginning, and it

isn't enough. To create truly diverse spaces, those spaces also need to be **inclusive**, where all parties feel welcomed, appreciated and respected—and have full access to all resources and can contribute to AAUW's success. And **belonging** is feeling like you are a part of something, that you actually matter. It is not necessarily about being liked—but rather about being needed. AAUW needs all of these things together, (diversity, inclusion, and belonging) for our branches to continue to grow and thrive."

The world around us is changing and so must we. We all want AAUW to remain relevant and continue to move forward as we work toward Equity for All. To learn more, there is a webinar called *Living our Vision of Equity for All*, where you can hear why AAUW-CA supports this measure. To see it go to 2020-2021 Webinars (www.aauw-ca.org).

The Nominating Committee submits the following Slate of Officers for election:

President: Judy Steele

Co-Vice Presidents-Membership: Maureen Buchner, Mary Ann McKay

Financial Officer: Stephen Buchner

Recording Secretary: Jane Bradley

Vice President Programs: Gerhild Klein

We will be voting on this slate at the Annual Meeting on April 14 at 1:00 pm. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

Public Policy/Current Events

Betty Bernstein

Our Public Policy discussion group will join the League of Women Voters of North and Central San Mateo County for their April meeting. The subject of the meeting is *Human Trafficking* and how it has evolved. The meeting will be presented via Zoom on Tuesday, April 20 at noon.

We are looking for someone to take over the position of Editor of the Branch Directory and Membership Data now held by Cynthia Robbins-Roth who will train you if you would like. Some computer knowledge is helpful. If you are interested, please contact Judy Steele.

San Mateo Branch 2021 Calendar

- March 25 Joint meeting with North Peninsula AAUW, *Professional Women Returning to Work*. Zoom meeting at 10:00 am
- March 27 Joint meeting with Mid-Peninsula AAUW Walter and Mary Englert speak on climate change: *Contributors, Impacts & Solutions*. Zoom meeting at 11:00 am
- April 14 Annual Meeting, Election of Officers
Dr. Mary Mead presents: *Demons, Creatures & Monsters--Oh My!*
Zoom meeting at 1:00 pm
- May 17 Channy Chhi Laux discusses her flight from Cambodia and new life in the U.S.
Zoom meeting at 1:00 pm

Demons, Creatures, and Monsters--Oh My!

Mythical creatures, legendary beasts, terrifying monsters--they are supernatural, mystical, often god-like or demon-like beings, and they have fascinated us since ancient times. They have filled folklore, stories, songs, and works of art. They may even be able to protect us from viruses. Dr. Mary Mead, a docent with the Asian Art Museum, will present this fascinating topic to us at our Annual Meeting on April 14 at 1:00.

Dr. Mead was born and raised in Japan, hence her fascination with Asian art. After 25 years in corporate telecommunications, she returned to her first love - teaching. While teaching, Dr. Mead would require her World and Comparative Religions classes to visit the Asian Art Museum to actually see the deities they were studying. Dr. Mead loves giving tours and presentations because they allow her to share her passion with others. At this meeting, we will also be electing our slate of candidates for 2021-2022. Please join us, by Zoom, for an interesting afternoon.

In Memoriam

Kathryn, "Kay" Payne passed away on Jan. 9 2021. Although not a member of AAUW, Kay was a special part of our branch. Every January, for many years, Kay would give a presentation of art from the de Young or Legion of Honor Museums to our members. Her depth of knowledge of her subjects made these lectures an event we all wanted to attend. A San Francisco native, Kay attended Lowell High School and received a BA in education from UC, Berkeley.

Joint Meetings with AAUW Branches

We have been invited to join both North Peninsula and Mid-Peninsula AAUW Branches in their March meetings. On March 25 at 10:00, North Peninsula is having a meeting related to the AAUW program *WorkSmart* entitled *Professional Women Returning to Work*, a webinar to help women who are looking to return to work. You will need to register for this meeting at <http://bit.ly/P2C-2021Mar25>.

Mid-Peninsula is having a meeting on climate change: *Contributors, Impacts & Solutions* with speakers Walter and Mary Englert on March 27 at 11:00 am. The Englerts' primary goal is to explain the dramatic effects of climate science and the impact on our daily lives. They hope to connect this information and encourage us to take action at the individual, community and legislative levels. You will receive a Zoom link prior to the meeting.

Dues Notice

AAUW membership renewal invoices will be mailed in April to all branch members. As most of you know, National AAUW increased the membership dues \$3.00 for next year. Because we have not had any in-person meetings this year, our Board of Directors decided to pay the \$3 increase from our operating budget. Renewing branch member's dues remains at \$100, the same as last year. If you would like a printed copy of the *Bay Leaves*, please add \$15 to your dues.

Please return your dues by May 15 so we may include your membership in our Branch Directory.

Channy Chhi Laux--Flight From Cambodia

Channy Chhi Laux is a survivor of the Cambodian genocide. When the Khmer Rouge took over the country in 1975, she was thirteen years old. In June of 1979, Channy arrived in Lincoln, Nebraska as a refugee. After four years of labor camps, no school and not knowing a word of English, she attended Lincoln High School; earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and a Master of Science in Applied Mathematics from Santa Clara University .

Channy worked in Silicon Valley as an engineer in the aerospace and biotech industries for 30 years before bravely challenging herself to follow her mother's footsteps of cooking and sharing Cambodian food that brings joy to everyone. She will be discussing her book *Short Hair Detention*, about her flight and experience in the U.S. as a fugitive at our May 17 Zoom meeting at 1:00 pm.

April 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, Apr 15th, at 10:00 am

Book I will be meeting by Zoom.

News of the World, Paulette Jiles

Book Discussion II (wait list)

Karlyn Schneider

Thurs, Apr 22nd, at 12:30 pm

Book II will be meeting by Zoom.

The Splendid and the Vile, Eric Larson

Book Discussion III (wait list)

Mary Ann McKay

Pat Fuetsch

Thurs, Apr 15th 1:30 pm

Book III will be meeting by Zoom.

The Dutch House, Anne Patchett

Book Discussion IV

Jan Lamphier

Fri, Apr 23rd, at 10:00 am

Book IV will be meeting by Zoom.

Frederick Douglas, David Blight, (continued)

Bridge

Elissa James

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

California Fact & Legend

Bobbi Benson

Tue, Apr 6th 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, Apr 14th, 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, Apr 8th, 10:30 am

Foreign Affairs will be meeting by Zoom.

Brexit, Taking Stock & Looking Ahead

Hiking 2nd Monday, 10:00 am

Bobbi Benson

Mon, Apr 12th, 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, Apr 9th, at 1:30 pm

Mystery Book will be meeting by Zoom.

The Turn of the Key, Ruth Ware

Public Policy/Current Events

Betty Bernstein

Diane Silven

Tues, Apr 20th, noon (Date & Time Change)

Public Policy will be meeting by Zoom.

Joint meeting with League of Women Voters

Topic: *Human Trafficking*

American Association of University Women
P.O. Box 1465
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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.

April 2021

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