



# BAY LEAVES

AAUW/San Mateo

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

February 2022, Vol 92, Issue 6

## President's Message

Judy Steele

**Will you say "Yes?"** Over the next few months, we will be putting the board together for 2022-2023 and hope we will hear YES when calling potential board members. This year we had only one new board member, Joanne Chee, who graciously took over preparation of this year's annual branch directory. Our goal is still to have two persons for each elected spot: President, and Vice Presidents for Membership, Programs, Recording Secretary and Financial officer, and also for non-elected spots: Public Policy, Tech Trek, etc. Since many of our members travel often or have other obligations that prevent them from attending every board meeting, having a "co-" not only allows the travelers and/or those with ongoing commitments to say YES, but it is also more fun and less pressure to share a board position, not to mention a great way to keep up to date on our branch activities. It is past time for more members to step up and take on leadership roles if we want our branch to continue the activities for which we all joined.

In addition to the above officers for next year, we would also like to fill a new position of "Contact for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)," per the State's request. This person or persons would be willing and able to act as liaison(s) and interact with the State's DEI Committee in its efforts to communicate through the inter-branch councils and with every branch in California. The purpose is to "revitalize AAUW in our changing, multi-cultural society and enrich the experience of all of our members". Anyone interested in reviewing part of the AAUW DEI Toolkit, click on this link [Plug & Play DEI Programming - AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#) or to look at a short video on inclusion, please click on [Accenture Inclusion & The Power of Diversity | Accenture - YouTube](#).

**In other news**, AAUW CA's Public Policy Committee will be organizing another "Lobby Day" in April, which will actually go on during the whole week of April 11-15. Stay tuned for more info as we get closer to that month.

The new State Tech Trek Committee is still hoping to have in-person camps in 2022, but so far only two sites have confirmed - UCSB and UC Davis. The Committee is also working on preparing a "Tool Kit" for branches to establish Tech Trek Alumnae groups (TTAG). More details will be provided at the State's Annual Event on April 30th.

There is a new way to make a charitable donation to your favorite California Tech Trek camp as well as projects and branch scholarships managed by the California Special Project Fund (SPF). Click [HERE](#) to go to the SPF donate page, select your project, enter your donation amount, select the camp you want to support, and finally click PayPal or Debit/Credit Card. The payment process is via PayPal, but you do not have to create or have a PayPal account to use.

For all of you tech-minded members, the State Marketing Committee is hosting webinars on using social media to extend our reach to potential new members. The 2-part series is called *Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn - Your Key to Outreach* and will be held on Zoom on January 19th (click here [Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn - Your Key to Outreach - Part I - AAUW California \(aauw-ca.org\)](#)) and February 22nd (click here: [Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn - Your Key to Outreach - Part II - AAUW California \(aauw-ca.org\)](#)). As always, don't forget to check the branch calendar for a great variety of upcoming programs and Interest Group meetings. Stay safe, wear your masks for indoor events and have a Happy Valentines' Day!

## San Mateo Branch Calendar

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Feb 12 | <i>Women of Russia--It's Complicated</i> ,<br>Micki Carter, editor of the TRIAD<br><b>Please Note the Date Change</b><br>Zoom meeting at 10:00 am. |
| Mar 16 | <i>The Art of Korea</i> , presentation by Asian<br>Art Museum Docent Mary Mead.<br>Zoom meeting at 1:00 pm.  |
| Apr 30 | <i>AAUW California Annual Meeting</i> .<br>Zoom meeting.   |
| May 6  | <i>San Mateo Branch Annual Meeting</i><br>Location TBD   |

# Childcare: An Overdue and Critical Investment

Shelley Mitchell and Ginny Hatfield  
AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

“It’s past time that we treat childcare as what it is - an element whose contribution to economic growth is as essential as infrastructure or energy...and the single most important thing we can do to build a stronger economy over the next several decades,” says Janet Yellen, the former Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank and now Secretary of the Treasury. The state of U.S. childcare is deplorable compared with other developed nations, especially with respect to affordability. This fact has been brought home to us ever more vividly during the current pandemic. Women, who still bear the majority of childbearing, have left the workforce in the millions due to the absence of basic childcare services and the cost associated with it.

Here are some sobering statistics:

- 56% of families with children under 6 consist of households where both parents work
- The employment rate for single mothers raising a young child is 65%; it’s 83% for single fathers who maintain custody
- The average American family with at least one child under 5 uses 13% of their income to pay for childcare
- Less than 20% of children eligible for a low-income federal assistance program are getting the funding
- 50% of Americans live in childcare “deserts” or areas where there are three children per every childcare opening
- In 24 states the average cost for infant full-time daycare exceeds the average cost of rent
- 97% of childcare providers are women, who are disproportionately women of color, making less than a living wage with no guaranteed benefits. In the US, the mean hourly wage for childcare workers is \$12.88, nearly \$3.00 less per hour than parking lot attendants, and \$5.00 less per hour than dog groomers.

This is a textbook example of a broken market, whereby the benefits of providing a service (in this case childcare) are not included in its overall value. Are our children really less important than our cars and dogs?

The consequences of not investing in quality childcare should have most Americans demanding action from their government leaders. Neglecting the care of young children is detrimental to their physical and mental wellbeing; it reduces

productivity in the workforce; leads to lost wages and reduced retirement benefits for parents; it adds to the downward pressure on childcare workers, which in turn, impacts the quality of childcare; and restricts future educational opportunities for family members.

There is hope on the horizon! *The Build Back Better Act*, now awaiting action by the Senate, would provide universal preschool with high-quality childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds; increase wages for early childhood educators; upgrade existing childcare facilities, especially in high-need areas; and provide a sliding scale whereby parents would pay a reasonable percentage of their overall income to childcare costs.

Whether the legislation is included in the Reconciliation bill or taken up as a stand-alone bill, it deserves passage and your support. Childcare relief remains the top priority of AAUW California this year. Please be sure to contact your senator and let them know of your AAUW membership and your commitment to ensuring our Nation’s future.

AAUW is calling on the 117th Congress to ensure that a permanent paid leave program, childcare funding and the Child Tax Credit are included in the budget reconciliation process. To find out more or to contact your senators, [CLICK Here](#).

## Asian Art Museum: *The Art of Korea*

We’re very excited to have Ginny Meyer present *The Art of Korea* on March 16, at 1:00 pm on Zoom. Ginny is a Docent at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco. She was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Korea in 1969-1970. While there she developed a strong love of Korean art. The lecture will trace the development of the art of Korea from the earliest recorded information to the present day. As a storyteller at the Museum, Ginny works with Karlyn Schneider, a member of our branch.

## *Sisters In Crime: A Fireside Chat*

Sunnyvale/Cupertino AAUW Fundraiser

This event will feature local writers Faye Snowden and Lisa Towles discussing their writings. Faye is the author of noir mysteries. Her novels include *A Killing Fire*, a gothic tale featuring homicide detective Raven Burns. Lisa (Polisar) Towles is an award winning crime novelist, with her latest book, *The Unseen*.

Join us for an interesting evening, Wed., Feb. 9, at 7 pm. It will be a Zoom fund-raising event for the Legal Advocacy Fund of AAUW. A \$10 donation is requested. Please send your donation and your current email address to Caroline Hui, 1655 Sparrow Ct., Sunnyvale, 94087, by Sat. Feb. 5. Make checks out to AAUW Funds, with LAF on the memo line.

February 2022 Interest Sections  
Mary Ann McKay

**Boggle (All Members Welcome)**

Judy Steele  
Wed, Feb 16, at 1:30 pm  
Judy Steele

**Book Discussion I**

Elissa James  
Thurs, Feb 17, at 10:00 am  
Margo King  
*Apeirogon*, Colum McCann

**Book Discussion II (wait list)**

Karlyn Schneider  
Thurs, Feb 24, at 12:30 pm  
The meeting will be by Zoom.  
*The Daughters of Yalta*, Catherine Grace Katz

**Book Discussion III (wait list)**

Mary Ann McKay  
Pat Fuetsch  
Thurs, Feb 17, at 1:30 pm  
TBD whether it will be in person or on Zoom.  
*The Silent Patient*, Alex Michaelides

**Bridge**

Elissa James  
Mon, Feb 21, 1:00 pm  
Contact Elissa James for more information.

**California Fact & Legend**

Bobbi Benson  
Tues, Feb 1, 10:10 am,  
The meeting will be by Zoom.  
Presentations by Marilyn Canon & Judy Laird

**Drama Reading**

Marjorie Kobe  
Wed, Feb 9, 9:30 am  
The meeting will be by Zoom.

**Ethnic Lunch**

Annette Delaney  
**No Meeting in February**

**Foreign Affairs - Great Decisions**

Margo King  
Thurs, Feb 10, at 10:00 am  
TBD whether it will be in person or on Zoom.  
*Outer Space Policies*

**Mah Jongg**

Helen Hatchett  
Wed, Feb 9, at 1:00 pm  
Tues, Feb 22, at 1:00 pm  
Helen Hatchett

**Membership: New and Prospective**

Maureen Buchner  
Mary Ann McKay

**Movie Group**

Mary Ann McKay  
Monday Movie is changing to the 3rd Tuesday of the month  
**No Movie in February**  
Contact Mary Ann for more information

**Mystery Book Group**

Mikki Coffino  
Fri, Feb 11, at 1:30 pm  
The meeting will be by Zoom.  
*The Red Lotus*, Chris Bohjalian

**Public Policy/Current Events**

Betty Bernstein  
Diane Silven  
**No Meeting in February**

**Walking 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays 10:00 am year round**

Bobbi Benson  
Mon, Feb 14, 10:00 am  
Mon, Feb 28, 10:00 am  
Contact Bobbi for location of walks.

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 2022**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 CA Fact & Legend	2	3 AAUW Board Meeting	4	5
6	7	8	9 Drama Reading Mah Jongg	10 Foreign Affairs	11 Mystery Book	12 General Meeting, <i>Women of Russia</i>
13	14 Walking	15	16 Boggle	17 Book I Book III	18	19
20	21 Bridge	22 Mah Jongg	23	24 Book II	25	26
27	28 Walking					