

The Santa Clarita Valley Voice

Volume 11, Issue 9, May 2020



“The beautiful spring came, and when nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also.”

Julie Andrews

AAUW Mission:

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

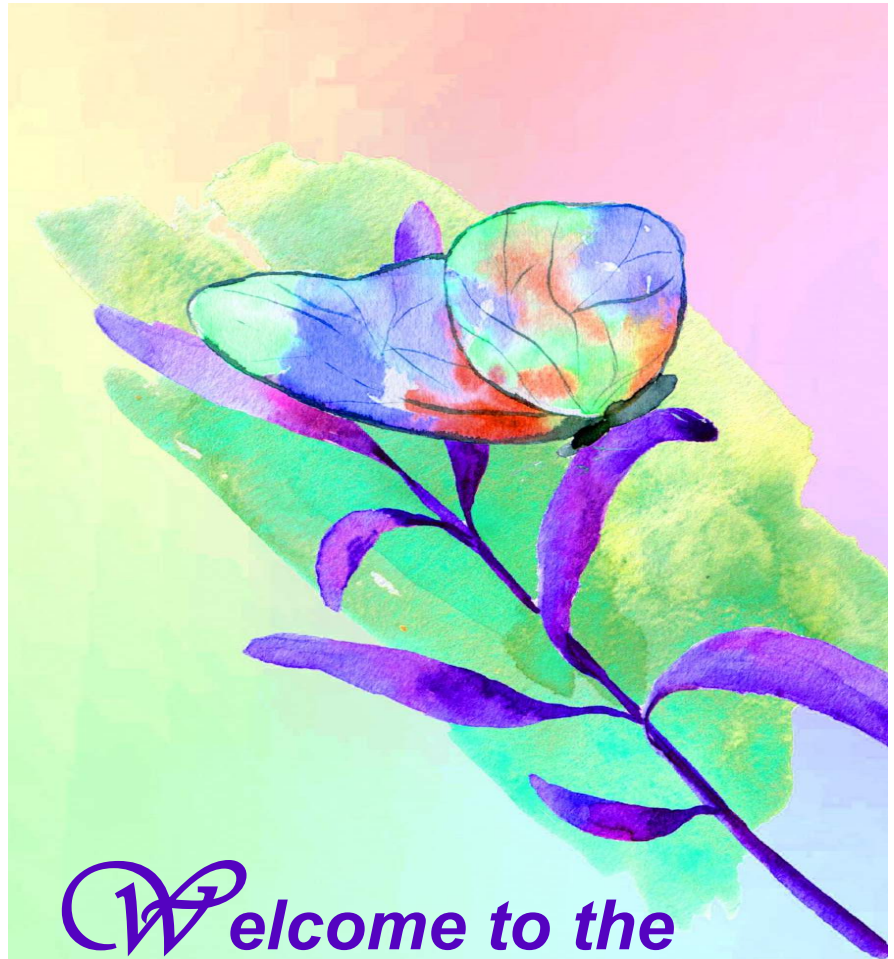
AAUW Values:

Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

AAUW's Value

Promise:

Equity for All



Welcome to the **2020-2021 Board!**

President	Diane Millikin
President-Elect	Sonja Wendt
1st Co-VP Programs	Arlene Saretsky
1st Co-VP Programs	Val Jones
2nd VP Membership	Penny Van Dyke
Treasurer	Marianne Bakic
AAUW Funds	Kay Moioffer
Recording Secretary	Stephanie Dietrich
Public Policy	Robin Clough

ELECTED OFFICERS 2019-2020

President	Marianne Bakic
President Elect	Diane Millikin
1st Co-VP Program	Stephanie Dietrich
1st Co-VP Program	Arlene Saretsky
2nd VP Membership	Penny Van Dyke
AAUW Funds	Valerie Jones
VP Finance	Gail Quinn
Recording Secretary	Cathy Altuvilla
Public Policy	Robin Clough

APPOINTED OFFICERS 2018-2019

By-Laws	Diane Bartley
Newsletter Editor	Nancy Heinisch
Social Media	Kelly Burke
Webmaster	Betty Kelly

ADMINISTRATIVE

Auditors	Diane Bartley
	Open
Corresponding Secr.	Rose Drye
Historian	Open
Hospitality	Tami Reyna
Internal Communications	Louise Schultz
Directory	Louise Schultz
Publicity	Sonja Wendt
Telecommunications	Linda Metz

COMMUNITY OUTREACH**COC**

MESA/STEM	Kelly Burke
Bucks 4 Books	Kelly Burke
Student Relations	Robin Clough
MESA Advisory Board	Rebecca Corona-Nickerson
Women's Conference	Rebecca Corona-Nickerson
Humanities	Barbara Oliver
	Open
COC Student Affiliate	Open

Tech Trek

Chair	Diane Bartley
Com. Fundraising	Diane Bartley
	Open
Schools Liaison	Ginny Gregor
Book Lovers Luncheon	Diane Bartley
	Diane Millikin

STEM Stars

Chair	Sonja Wendt
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Women in History

Program Co-Chairs	Debbie McIntosh
	Louise Willard

President's Corner:**Time to Contemplate**

This year has certainly turned into one to be remembered! Because of mandates to self-isolate and keep to a social distance, we have time for contemplation and for learning to cope with our new environment. Because of the isolation, we are finding new ways to reach out and interact with each other. Our members are calling other members to check in on them. Some of us have attended Happy Hours with friends and birthday parties via Zoom. Interest groups are starting to use Zoom for their meetings. I am now able to play my favorite game "Bridge" online with friends. And I have just learned how to make facemasks for my family.

I attended the AAUW California Annual Meeting on April 18th on Zoom. They had over 300 members log in to the meeting. Awards were announced for various branch achievements. AAUW CEO Kim Churches spoke from her home about all that AAUW is doing to advance gender equity for women and girls on the national front. **And** the Speech Trek candidate that we filmed for the AAUW online branch, Namita Shayam, came in fourth in the Annual AAUW Speech Trek Contest.

It has been a busy and eventful two years for me as President of our branch. I was very fortunate to have an excellent board and officers to aid and assist me. I would like to thank them and the outreach committee members for all of the support they have given me and all they have done to make our AAUW branch an exceptional organization. I also want to thank our nominating committee for putting together an excellent board for the coming year. Since we were not able to hold our annual meeting in person this year, we circulated a "vote by email" to elect our new board. I thank all of you who participated in the voting. Our new president will be Diane Millikin and she and her board will need all of your help to make 2020-21 a terrific year.

I would especially like to thank my program co-chairs, Arlene Saretsky and Stephanie Dietrich, for the wonderful job they did bringing educating and exciting programs to us.

I also want to thank and praise Diane Bartley, Diane Millikin and all of their volunteers for the annual Book Lovers Luncheon. They continued to exceed their goals and put on an event that was at once enriching and entertaining. If more people knew how good this event is, we would have to get a larger room.

Our annual installation meeting is scheduled for May 30th. Since self-isolating and social-distancing have been mandated through May 15, and may be extended even further, we may have to cancel that too. We will keep you updated on this later in May.

Lastly, May is the month for voting for new board officers for both the national and state AAUWs. Their voting polls are open. Just go to their websites and you can find the link to vote. National elections close on May 18 and state elections close May 8.

Also, please take this time to renew your AAUW membership so that we can prepare the budget for the coming fiscal year. Our budget which is prepared in August depends on the amount of dues collected at that time.

Thank you all for your enthusiasm and commitment to AAUW.

Stay well and stay safe.

Marianne
mariannebakic@me.com

Deadline for the June issue of
The Santa Clarita Valley Voice is May 27
Editor Nancy Heinisch
nancyheinisch@att.net

Women in History



Louise and I were asked if we could possibly do individual videos and then post them on YouTube so everyone could see whom we portrayed this year in the Women in History Program.

Unfortunately, only one school did the program – Meadows—the week before the Santa Clarita Valley was lockdown. No one was really enthusiastic about doing their portrayal as a video and we can't blame them. The dynamic of doing a video versus a live performance is quite different. The whole idea of the program is that the “woman in history” is up close and personal...a live person with a live audience. The interaction of the live audience is what we feed off of when we are doing performances. These women aren't seasoned actresses and doing a video is quite intimidating to an unaccustomed live performer.

We do not have a video camera or a phone that will last long enough to do a taping. The women are scattered everywhere, and as you know, we are supposed to shelter at home. What kind of equipment they have is also unknown. We wish this was really simple, but we are overwhelmed by the technological challenges and logistics. We think it sounds easier said than done.

We already have the scripts completed, the costumes gathered, and crossword puzzles done. We would like to do this program the right way, when we can all go back to school and have an April annual meeting next year.

We know you were looking forward to seeing the women authors and you will see them – just a little bit later. We hope you will understand the reasoning behind our decision. Maybe one of the programs that we can have next year is how to use Zoom and make videos which are shareable with others.

Be well and take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

*Louise Willard and Debbie McIntosh,
Co-Chairs*

Legislative Updates

Although challenging, AAUW California's legislative meeting with our advocate was productive, in spite of communicating primarily through emails. Forty-four bills were reviewed with the following resolutions:

- Co-Sponsor 1 Bill (SB973)
 - + Support 26 Bills in the following categories:
 - * Product Regulation – 3
 - * Family Planning – 5
 - * Education – 6
 - * Labor/Wages – 2
 - * Gender Equity/Discrimination – 4
 - * Family Protection – 3
 - * Sexual Assault and Sex Education – 2
 - + 8 Bills will be “watched” for further developments
 - + 10 Bills were dropped

For more information on these bills, click <https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=19&id=920d3c91-39f9-4e59-a017-b2d993254aef>.

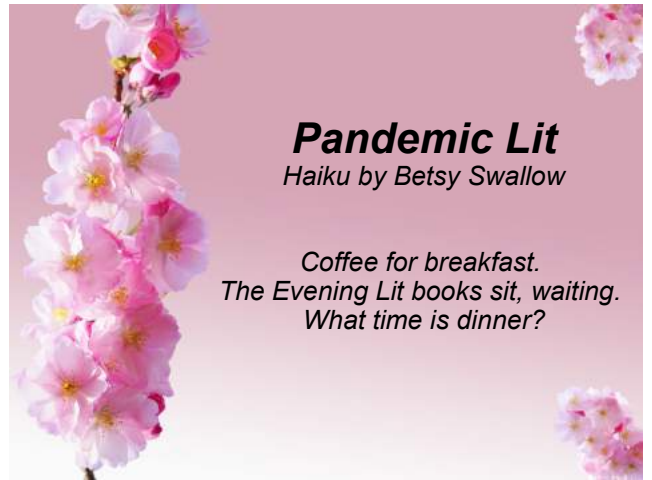
It appears that when the Legislature reconvenes their focus will be on coronavirus bills, housing, and wildfires as well as the state budget.

*Robin Clough, Public Policy Chair
robinec16@aol.com*

Pandemic Lit

Haiku by Betsy Swallow

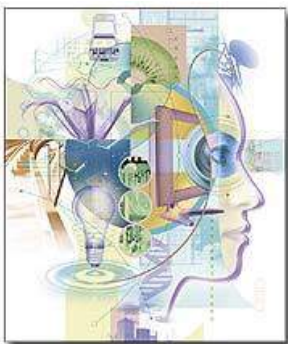
*Coffee for breakfast.
The Evening Lit books sit, waiting.
What time is dinner?*



Tech Trek 2020 has officially been canceled.

We have, optimistically, reserved the Oaks Grille at the Oaks Club again for the Book Lovers Luncheon on Saturday, February 27th, 2021.

*Diane Bartley, Tech Trek Chair
dianebartley6@gmail.com*



Page Callers Needed

Hello dear members!

I'm still looking for page callers!

Thank you!

*Linda Metz, Telecommunications
661-252-2099
lindee.l@icloud.com*



Interest Groups

Interest Group Chairs

Bridge	Cathy Altuvilla
Evening Lit	Betsy Swallow
	Rose Drye
Great Decisions	Pat Horanberg
Lunch Bunch	Deborah Harris
Mah Jongg	Pat Oguss
Mystery Lit	Louise Schultz
Winey Ladies	Debra Halcrow



Mah Jongg Goes Virtual!

1 pm
May 1

Mah Jongg at www.realmahjongg.com
The game name for Pat Oguss is "poguss".
Email *your* game name to Pat at poguss@gmail.com



Evening Lit for May Cancelled

Greetings literary lock-downers!

Rose Drye and I regret that we cannot hold our May meeting to discuss "American Princess" by Stephanie Thornton about Teddy Roosevelt's daughter Alice. We'll have to see what happens and if we can hold a June meeting of some kind to select books for next season.

I think it would only be fitting to carry over our April and May books to next fall. More details will be in the June newsletter. We'll have to adjust based on conditions, or make our selections electronically. Time will tell.

*Betsy Swallow, betsyswallow@att.net
Rose Drye, rosedrye474@gmail.com*

Thanks for the Memories

Stephanie Dietrich and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in our programs this past year.

We travelled the world with Road Scholar Jill Swaim, learned how to paint using watercolors with artist Zony Gordon and journeyed with Clarissa Hernandez, an engineer and technical manager at Universal Creative. Clarissa is responsible for the design and development of the Harry Potter and Jurassic Park rides at Universal.

Unfortunately the coronavirus pandemic changed all of our lives and caused the cancellation of our Culinary Arts Program at the College of the Canyons. Hopefully we can arrange a date in the future.

We hope our program speakers motivated you to expand your horizons as well as inform, enlighten and entertain you.

I will be returning next year with Valerie Jones as Program VPs. I look forward to collaborating with Valerie.

Keep healthy and keep joy in your heart.
These days you may have to search for it,
but it's there.

*Arlene Saretsky
saretskya@sbcglobal.net
Stephanie Dietrich
swdietrich51@gmail.com
Co-Chairs*



May Topic for Great Decisions is U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle

Combating illegal immigration has become a priority of the Trump administration. The Northern Triangle of Central America, made up of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, is a special target of the administration, which holds the nations responsible for the large flow of migrants from Latin America to the U.S. With funds from the U.S. cut, how can the Northern Triangle countries curtail migration?

*Pat Horanberg, Great Decisions Chair
pthoranberg@aol.com*



Challenge Yourself to Learn a New Brag-worthy Skill!



Rise and Shine to ... Your Inner Geek... It's time to consider a new skill to help out your AAUW chapter. Learn how to use WordPress software provided online by the AAUW national site to maintain our local branch website santaclaritavalley-ca.aauw.net/.

The task involves only a few steps per month. They are:

- Receive the newsletter and photographs from your fellow members.
- Post the front page flyer, the calendar, and the newsletter to pages on the website.
- Post any photographs received to the relevant web page. That is, photos from the previous month's events are posted on the front page. Photos about Tech Trek are posted to the Tech Trek page and so on.

Annually – modify the list of officers on the About Us page and update any Interest Group dates or reading lists on that page.

The monthly commitment is approximately two to three hours depending on branch activities. The once-a-year update may take two hours or less.

You will be trained locally by the outgoing webmaster. You will have technical assistance via telephone or email from the national tech team. National AAUW will perform or fix a posting for you if you need help.

Please contact Marianne or Diane M. if you are interested. You may email the current webmaster with questions at kellycorner@gmail.com.



Our AAUW member Barbara Lash who suffered a stroke on January 10th is still recovering at a rehab facility and thanks everyone for all the prayers, cards, and notes members have sent. Please continue to send cards to her home address and her daughter will get them to her. She loves hearing about what you are all doing as she is so isolated.

Cathy Altuvilla

Equal Pay Day Awareness Events

With the state in virtual lockdown, we know most of our branches had to cancel their planned community Equal Pay Day Awareness events. The Public Policy Committee would love to hear feedback from those branches that found creative ways to recognize this infamous date which symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. Please tell us what you did. Pictures would be great and could end up on our website.

And now, to put a little smile on your face in these otherwise dark days, just remember: This shutdown is bad for everyone, but it is especially bad for men. ***For every 79 cents women are losing by being out of work, men are losing a whole dollar!***

Kate Nielson, AAUW Director of Public Policy, reminds us that we need to keep talking about the pay gap during a time when its effects are exacerbated by the COVID-19 outbreak

Kathy Harper, AAUW Public Policy Chair







Wishing Happy Birthday to those born in May

- 7 Kelly Burke
- 9 Diane Weber
- 11 Debra Halcrow
- 12 Stephanie Dietrich
- 17 Minah Kim
- 19 Diane Kreyenhagen

Penny Van Dyke, 2nd VP Membership
pennyscv@aol.com

Contact Diane Millikin at dianemillikin@gmail.com to order your personalized AAUW name tag.

MAY 2020 INTEREST GROUPS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
					MAH JONGG 1 pm Virtual Mah Jongg at www.realmahjongg.com The game name for Pat Oguss is "poguss". Email your game name to Pat at poguss@gmail.com .	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NATIONAL PARANORMAL DAY		CINCO DE MAYO 				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
MOTHER'S DAY 		BOARD MEETING RSVP Cathy Altuvilla BALLOTS DUE FOR CONGRESSIONAL 25TH DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION	NATIONAL FROG JUMPING DAY			NATIONAL DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR DAY
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					NATIONAL BUY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT DAY	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31			DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER nancyheinisch@att.net		NATIONAL PAPERCLIP DAY	(POSSIBLE) INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS 

Kim Churches, CEO of AAUW National has issued this statement:

"You MUST follow your Governor's and Mayor's guidance. We at National have strongly advised absolutely NO meetings in person for the foreseeable future for all affiliates (branches/states), and in compliance with local/state guidance/orders. Our state/local laws supersede in this exceedingly difficult time. Better for all AAUW members to absolutely shelter in place and meet virtually via Skype, FaceTime, Zoom, or conference calls."

AAUW-CA fully endorses this. Branches must not have any in-person meetings until Governor Newsome lifts the "Stay-at-Home" order. That includes interest group meetings. No branch should sanction any meetings of any group within the branch.