

# The Santa Clarita Valley Voice

American Association of University Women — Santa Clarita Valley Branch

Volume 12, Issue 1, September 2020



Since 1881, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) has been the nation's leading voice promoting education and equity for women and girls.

For more than 130 years, members have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

AAUW has a nationwide network of more than 170,000 members and donors, 1,000 branches, and 800 college/ university institution partners.

## **AAUW Mission:**

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

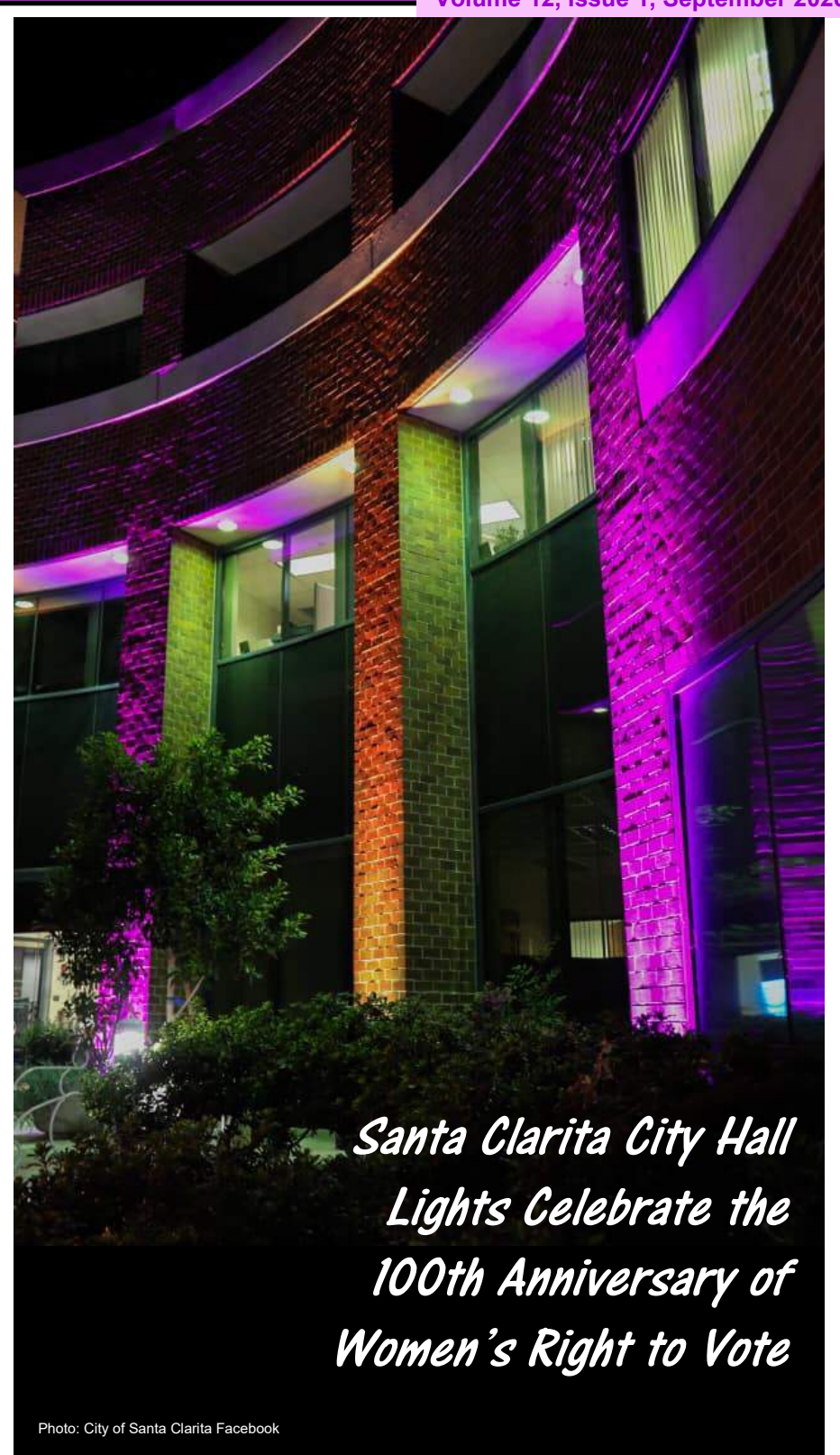
## **AAUW Values:**

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

## **AAUW's Value**

### **Promise:**

Equity for All



*Santa Clarita City Hall  
Lights Celebrate the  
100th Anniversary of  
Women's Right to Vote*

Photo: City of Santa Clarita Facebook

## ELECTED OFFICERS 2020-2021

President	Diane Millikin
President Elect	Sonja Wendt
1st Co-VP Program	Valerie Jones
1st Co-VP Program	Open
2nd VP Membership	Penny Van Dyke
AAUW Funds	Kay Moioffer
VP Finance	Marianne Bakic
Recording Secretary	Stephanie Dietrich
Public Policy	Robin Clough

## APPOINTED OFFICERS 2020-2021

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

## ADMINISTRATIVE

Auditors	Diane Bartley Sue Jentis
Corresponding Sec.	Rose Drye
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	Kelly Burke
Humanities	Open

### Tech Trek

Program Co-Chairs	Diane Bartley Ginny Gregor
Com. Fundraising	Diane Bartley
Schools Liaison	Ginny Gregor
Book Lovers Luncheon	Diane Bartley

### STEM Stars

Chair Sonja Wendt

### Women in History

Program Co-Chairs Debbie McIntosh  
Louise Willard

## President's Corner:

### Only Zoom for the Foreseeable Future

Welcome to what is shaping up to be a memorable 53<sup>rd</sup> year of the Santa Clarita Branch of AAUW. We kicked it off with our drive-by celebration at Santa Clarita City Hall on August 26. Kudos to our Public Policy Chair, Robin Clough, on her work with the City of Santa Clarita to light up City Hall in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the Women's Right to Vote!



I hope this finds you safe and healthy! When I wrote my president's message for the June newsletter, I genuinely believed by this fall we would be resuming our regular activities and meetings. Boy was I wrong! We recently received this notice from AAUW CA: "AAUW does not sanction in-person meetings at this time nor for the foreseeable future." Our theme this year, "Persist and Persevere", is apropos, as we must strive to find new ways to hold our meetings and programs virtually instead of in person. At the August board and planning meeting, board members and activity chairs met and shared ideas on how to accomplish this.

We will be holding our Fall Membership meeting via Zoom on Saturday, September 26 at 10:30 a.m. Information on how to join that meeting and an agenda will be sent at the September mid-month update. Tentative plans include meeting the new board, recognizing our past president, hearing from our activity chairs, voting on the budget, seeing a message from an AAUW Fellowship Recipient, and enjoying a visit from two of our very own suffragists. Please plan to join us!

For those of you that have not yet experienced joining a Zoom meeting, we plan to have two informal training opportunities before the membership meeting to get you comfortable with the process.

Our Program VP Val Jones is working on plans for virtual programs in October and November. In October we intend to participate in a presentation from the League of Women Voters on the ballot initiatives. Please email Val any other suggestions you may have. Our Co-VP Program Arlene Saretsky is taking a leave of her position to recover from an accident. We wish her the best and hope she will be able to rejoin us in the spring.

Our interest groups provide opportunities for fun and friendship and these are meeting virtually each month: Mystery Lit, Winey Ladies, Mah Jongg and Bridge. It is a great way to have some enjoyable interactions via Zoom. Contact the respective chairs for more information.

Our Santa Clarita Branch of AAUW has been persisting and persevering since it began back in 1968. Although the future may look very different, we are proud of what we have accomplished throughout our history: our Tech Trek program, our Stem Stars program, our COC scholarships for science and humanities, and our Women in History program. We have a lot to be proud of and we will continue to look for ways to persist and persevere to advance equity for women and girls in this new environment.

Can you help us? We need a Webmaster, Humanities Chair and Assistant Programs VP. Please step up and fill these positions. Call or email me for more information.

*See you online!*  
*Diane*

dianemillikin@gmail.com

Deadline for the October issue of *The Santa Clarita Valley Voice* is September 25th  
Editor Nancy Heinisch  
nancyheinisch@att.net



## National Proposed Change in Dues

The AAUW National Board of Directors will consider and vote on a change in Individual Member dues at their upcoming Board meeting on October 16, 2020. Any increase would take effect on July 1, 2021. The Board will consider two different options:

- A. An increase to take effect on July 1, 2021, of an amount between \$3 and \$10
- B. An increase to take effect on the 1st of July of each of the next three fiscal years of between \$3 and \$10 each year

*Please send any comments regarding this dues increase to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) no later than Friday, September 25, 2020. All comments will be reviewed by AAUW staff and the Board of Directors prior to the Board's vote. Thank you.*

*Julia T. Brown, Esq.  
Board Chair*

## Painless Fundraising for AAUW-SCV

One fund raising effort for AAUW is made as painless as possible using the Ralphs Grocery Community Rewards Program. If you are a rewards member and would like to support AAUW Funds, you can register online at [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) or call Ralphs at 800.660.9003 and they will register you. Our NPO is 83349 (the name is AAUW-FF Santa Clarita Branch).

Food4Less also offers a Community Rewards Program. To receive a rewards card and instructions, please contact Kay Moioffer at 661-291-1674 or [moioffer@ca.rr.com](mailto:moioffer@ca.rr.com).

*Kay Moioffer, AAUW Funds*

## SAGE Provides Learning Possibilities

If you are interested in joining a discussion group on a wide range of topics, SAGE may be for you. SAGE (Learning in Retirement) in cooperation with California State University, Northridge, offers classes each quarter covering a variety of topics such as art, politics, history, and film.

The fall quarter starts the first week of September and the winter quarter begins the first week of January. Currently the classes are being held on Zoom. Each class participant is expected to make an oral presentation on the topic selected. Classes meet in Granada Hills and the cost is \$250 for the year. For more information call 818-831-5064 or email SAGE at [elders@csun.edu](mailto:elders@csun.edu). The website is [sagelearninginretirement.org](http://sagelearninginretirement.org).

## Income-changing Opportunities Available

Start Smart and Work Smart free webinars on the AAUW website are your members' opportunity to learn the skills of negotiating their salary and benefits. Encourage them to spend an hour or two online with the Start Smart webinar to determine the value of their new job, determine their target salary and benefits in the city they want to work, and create their strategy to make their pitch for their new job. The Work Smart webinar focuses on helping them gain the skills of negotiating a salary raise and new benefits in their current position. Visit [aauw.org/resources/career/boost-your-career/](http://aauw.org/resources/career/boost-your-career/).



Photo: Judy Evridge

## Happy September Birthdays!

- 7 Anne Schmidt
- 7 Nancy Senger
- 7 Diane Sindermann
- 12 Patricia Kelley
- 20 Gina MacDonald
- 24 Tracey Carpentier
- 26 Elaine Garcia
- 26 Gail Simon
- 30 Anna Cairo

*Penny Van Dyke, 2nd VP Membership  
[pennyscv@aol.com](mailto:pennyscv@aol.com)*



Photo: Judy Evridge

## Get Well Wishes

We send our warmest thoughts to Arlene Saretsky for her continued recovery.

*Rose Drye  
[rosedrye474@gmail.com](mailto:rosedrye474@gmail.com)*

# Interest Groups

## Interest Group Chairs

Bridge	Roberta Kessler
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



## AAUW - SCV is Zooming!

### Mystery Lit

Zoom  
Thursday  
September 17  
10:30 am

*Louise Schultz*  
*louise50@pacbell.net*

### Winey Ladies

Virtual  
Thursday  
September 10  
5 pm

*Debra Halcrow*  
*debhalcrow@hotmail.com*

### Mah Jongg

Virtual  
Friday  
September 4  
1 pm

*Pat Oguss*  
*poguss@gmail.com*

## Great Decisions

Great Decisions is canceled until further notice.

The 2021-2022 Great Decisions Book will be ordered in late October for anyone that wants one. The new book and pricing is not available yet.

*Pat Horanberg*  
*pathoranberg@aol.com*



## Playing Virtual Bridge

If you are interested in the forthcoming fall bridge virtual online marathon, please contact Roberta.

*Roberta Kessler*  
*rkessler1367@gmail.com*

## City Hall Suffrage Lights Drive-by Event Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote

Mayor Cameron Smyth and the City of Santa Clarita supported our Santa Clarita Branch request to illuminate City Hall on August 26 in Suffrage colors of purple and gold for the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment. To enhance the celebration we organized a City Hall Drive-By event to view the commemorative lights. Other women's organizations such as Zonta, Soroptimists, and League of Women Voters were invited to join us for this milestone.

Our branch and AAUW-CA were participants in the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission's Forward into Light Campaign. Buildings and landmarks across the country lit up - from the U.S. and state capitols to skyscrapers to bridges to our own City Hall!

**Save the Date:** Get informed about the ballot measures: SCV League of Women Voters Proposition Forum via Zoom on **October 8, 6 pm**. More information to follow.

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

## Courtesy Dues Reminder

Please renew your membership ASAP. You can send a check payable to AAUW for \$99 to Marianne Bakic, 28823 Phantom Trail, SC 91390, or pay online to [aauw.org/](http://aauw.org/) membership.

**For help:** [mariannebakic@me.com](mailto:mariannebakic@me.com).

## AAUW-Santa Cruz Women's Suffrage Supplement

Many thanks to the AAUW-Santa Cruz Branch and Program Chair Lorraine Margon who curated the Women's Suffrage Supplement emailed to members.

Thank you also to The 2020 Women's Centennial Vote Initiative ([www.2020centennial.org/](http://www.2020centennial.org/)) for permission to include the crossword puzzle.



## Evening Lit

It was with trepidation that Rose Drye and I began planning the September meeting of Evening Lit. We consulted with a *Gentleman from Moscow*, and *The Wives of Los Alamos*, but they were no help. So many of our members feel stuck in *The Great Alone*, and there has been *The Distance Between Us* - six feet at least!

“This is worse than *1984*, I remarked to *My Brilliant Friend* Rose.

“I’d like to feel like an *American Princess*”, Rose replied, “but instead I feel like *The Woman in the Window*.”

We became somewhat *Educated* on the virus protocols and looked for suitable venues. Perhaps at *The Round House* in the *Commonwealth* or with the *Tea Girl of Humming Bird Lane*? We considered meeting outdoors someplace *Where the Crawdads Sing* or in *Bear Town* or a beach where we could see *The Light Between Oceans*. Alas, all were too far to go, especially without car-pooling.

Then in the midst of planning the *Brave New World* of our Book Club we received an email from AAUW-CA that they do not sanction in-person meetings due to the pandemic. We certainly don’t want this to become *The End of Your Life Book Club*. We were *Born Bright* and want to stay that way! So Evening Lit will be temporarily suspended until *The Gatekeepers* of AAUW-CA deem it safe to resume meeting in person.

When we do resume, we’ll be *Circling the Sun* with a day-time meeting rather than an evening one. It will be a great day, each of us with *The Library Book* (or Kindle) of choice, and you won’t be *The Only Woman in the Room*. Keep calm and read a good book!

Betsy Swallow  
betsy.swallow@att.net  
Rose Drye  
rosedrye474@gmail.com

P.S. Books we would have been reading this season:

September: *American Princess* by Stephanie Thornton  
October: *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah  
November: *The Three-Year Swim Club* by Julie Checkoway  
December: *The Gate-Keepers* by Chris Whipple

## 2020 Tech Trekkers Receive T-Shirts

All 25 Tech Trekkers received their Tech Trek t-shirt through the mail (rather than in person at the end of a career-changing experience at camp) thanks to the efforts of Ginny Gregor and Diane Bartley.



## AAUW-SCV Scholarship Awards for 2020

AAUW Virginia Prager-Elford Elementary Education Scholarship Endowment - 2020 was awarded to Timothy Carrizales

AAUW Humanities Scholarship was not awarded by COC due to Covid-19; expect two scholarships to be awarded in 2021.

AAUW-SCV received a special thank you from Marian Khali, the Dorinda Barnes, Santa Clarita Valley AAUW Memorial Osher Endowed Scholarship - 2020 awardee:

***My name is Marian Khalil and I am a recipient of the Dorinda Barnes, Santa Clarita Valley AAUW Memorial Osher Endowed Scholarship. I just wanted to say thank you for the financial support I received to complete my education at College of the Canyons.***

***As a student who wants to finish their education with not a huge number of student loans and try my best to keep up with my study, I am really thankful to be helped out with the amount I received. It really does mean a lot to me. Despite the money I received, the main reason as to why I am thankful for this scholarship is because of the confidence I received in myself actually getting to my goal and in achieving my dreams. This scholarship gave me a boost to continue in my path and try harder to achieve what I want. During my college years, I also try to help support my parents as well as myself by working in the Extended Opportunities Program and Services (EOPS) as a Student to Student tutor, which benefited me with a lot of new experiences.***

***Knowing that my efforts are being recognized encourages me to keep working and work harder sometimes. For this reason, I will continue to study to achieve my goals.***

***Thank you,  
Marian Khali***

### Order Your Personalized Name Tag

If you are not able to order and pick up your name tag, you may order through Diane Millikin. She will place a group order and bring completed name tags to a future event. Call or email Diane with any questions.

*Diane Millikin, President  
dianemillikin@gmail.com*



# Don't Get Frustrated! Your Guide to Zoom

## Zoom Training and Assistance

For those members who do not or have not used Zoom, we are setting up some Zoom Training and Practice sessions prior to our September 26th Membership Meeting. If you have tried Zoom before and had mixed results, this is for you too!

If you are interested in learning, please email [RuthShelbySmith1@aol.com](mailto:RuthShelbySmith1@aol.com) to sign up for our September 3rd 10:30 to 11:30 am session or our September 23rd 1 to 2 pm session. Or both! Please also give her your phone number so that we can contact you during the session if you need additional instruction. We will also give you home phone numbers of members who you might want to call during the Training Session.

If you are already proficient on Zoom and would be able to help assist some members on the phone, please email [DianeMillikin@gmail.com](mailto:DianeMillikin@gmail.com). At this time we don't know how many members we will need to help. And include your phone number too.

Once we have a list, we will send out an email with the link to join the Practice/Training session. If you do not have Zoom, please download this FREE app on your smartphone, tablet (like iPad or Kindle Fire), or personal computer. When you download this app, you do not need to set up an account. When we send you a link, you just click on it to join the meeting. When you are joining a Zoom meeting the first time, it will ask you to enter your

name. Once you have entered it, Zoom won't ask again.

It's important for us to know if you will be joining us using a family member's account or business account; we need to know what that name is in advance. We will be using a Waiting Room and will only admit members we are expecting. So if the account is under George Brown or ABC Company, we need to know in advance.

If you will be using a computer that does not have a camera or mic, you can join the Zoom meeting with your computer to see everyone and hear everyone. However, we will only see your name and you would need to type in the Chat box to communicate with us. You can also add your voice along with the computer by calling the phone numbers that will be provided with the link and then entering the Meeting ID and Password. So that there is no noise feedback doing this, please lower the volume on your computer. And that's another reason we need your phone number in advance: to allow you in.

We can go over this in the Practice/Training along with lots of helpful information like how to chat, turn off your mic, put up a virtual background, etc. Once you have done this a time or two, you will be a Pro!

Before joining the training, be sure to download the app to your PC, iPad, tablet or phone.

## Zoom Etiquette for Everyone

As we prepare to have many members on our upcoming meetings here are some suggestions to make it pleasant for everyone.

### *Stage your video area*

Keep in mind that people aren't just seeing you, they're also seeing whatever the camera is pointed at behind you or whoever else is in the room. If you can't position yourself so that there is a wall behind you, try using a virtual backdrop. You can join the training and assistance sessions above for help getting one set up.

### *Stay on mute if you're not talking*

Background noise can be really distracting. If you aren't sharing anything at the moment, go ahead and hit mute until you do. That way, no one has to listen to the car alarm that goes off in your neighborhood, your cell phone pinging or your neighbor's barking dog.

## SEPTEMBER 2020 INTEREST GROUPS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3 <b>ZOOM TRAINING</b> 10:30 am Ruthie Smith ruthshelbysmith@aol.com	4 <b>MAH JONGG</b> Virtual 1 pm www.realmahjongg.com The game name for Pat Oguss is "poguss". Email your game name to Pat at poguss@gmail.com	5
6 <b>NATIONAL READ A BOOK DAY</b>	7 <b>Happy Labor Day</b> 	8 <b>BOARD MEETING</b> Zoom RSVP Stephanie Dietrich swdietrich51@gmail.com	9	10 <b>WINEY LADIES</b> Virtual 5 pm Debra Halcrow debhalcrow@hotmail.com cell 661-904-7610  <b>BRIDGE</b> 1 pm Roberta Kessler 661-296-5085	11 <b>PATRIOT DAY</b> 	12
13 <b>GRANDPARENTS DAY</b> 	14	15	16	17 <b>MYSTERY LIT</b> Zoom 10:30 am Louise Schultz	18	19 <b>ROSH HASHANAH</b>
20	21	22 <b>FIRST DAY OF FALL</b> 	23 <b>ZOOM TRAINING</b> 1 pm Ruthie Smith ruthshelbysmith@aol.com	24	25 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> nancyheinsch@att.net	26 <b>FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> Virtual 10:30 am Diane Millikin dianemillikin@gmail.com
27	28 <b>YOM KIPPUR</b>	29	30	1	2	3

**AAUW at Santa Clarita City Hall Lighting: (l to r) Robin Clough, Diane Millikin, Marianne Bakic, Jenewyn Van Wie**

