

The Santa Clarita Valley Voice

Volume 12, Issue 8, April 2021



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



Women in History

Saturday

April 24th

Via Zoom

10 am

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	Debra Halcrow

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
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Women in History

Program Co-Chairs	Debbie McIntosh Louise Willard
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Women in History 2021

Diane Millikin and Debbie McIntosh agreed that the Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 24th, from 10 am to 12:30 pm.

Usually the voting for the new board is done at this meeting but it may be done electronically before April 24th, so stay tuned. On Saturday, April 24th, after the initial greeting and notices from Diane, the program will begin.

The program is the 2021 Women in History who were portrayed this year, and with a little luck, it will be done electronically. The women were authors: Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Emily Dickinson, Jane Austin, Louisa May Alcott, and Dr. Nnedi Okorafor.

These authors were supposed to have been done last year, but because of Covid-19 almost all of the schools declined to participate. Two did: Meadows Elementary and Sulphur Springs Elementary. This year, Sulphur Springs Elementary will be doing other women: Coco Chanel, Betsy Ross, Shirley Temple, Cleopatra, Maya Lin, and Queen Isabella.

If everything goes as planned, Debbie will introduce this year's program and each portrayal.

There will be videos of performances that were done in the five schools that signed up to do the program as of March 11th: Leona Cox Elementary, Meadows Elementary, James Foster Elementary, West Creek Academy, and Sulphur Springs Elementary.

It will be a fluid situation, so we beg your patience. We are both technologically challenged, but we will persevere.

*Debbie McIntosh and Louise Willard
Women in History Co-Chairs*



Deadline for the May issue of
The Santa Clarita Valley Voice is
April 23rd
Editor Nancy Heinisch

AAUW California Annual Meeting

Plan to attend (via Zoom) the AAUW California Annual Meeting on April 17th at 9:30 a.m. to hear AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown as she brings us all the news from AAUW National and the latest about the proposed bylaws change. Register on the AAUW CA website.

March 2021

President's Notes

Time to Make your Voice Heard on Whether or Not to Drop Degree Requirement



Starting April 7, AAUW members will be asked to vote to elect members to the national board of directors and on amendments to our Public Policy Priorities and bylaws, including a proposal to eliminate AAUW's longstanding membership degree requirement.

Get up to speed on the issues by reviewing the election pages on the national AAUW website, and register for the April 1 webinar about the education requirement. For even more information, you can also read about it on the California AAUW site: www.aauw-ca.org.

Last month we asked our members how do you feel about that? If we eliminate the degree requirement for membership, what makes our organization any different than other groups such as Zonta or the Assistance League? Does this make our organization stronger? Here are the responses I received from chapter members:

Research has shown numerous times that a person with a college degree earns more over their lifetime than a person who only graduates from high school. AAUW adapted to allow those with a two year degree to become members. I do not agree with eliminating the degree requirement.

I am strongly **AGAINST** this. Why does National want to water the organization down? It is for the money. If they would lower the dues instead of raising them, we could get more members.

I am definitely in favor of eliminating the degree requirement. I spent ten years meeting non-degreed moms at Math Science Conferences who were so eager to help out and were thrilled that their daughters had this opportunity that they themselves never had. But I couldn't invite them to join AAUW. The same goes for Tech Trek moms and dads. And it's difficult and tricky to recruit new members. "I belong to this great organization. Would you like to join. Oh, wait, do you have a college degree? No? Oh, sorry, never mind. You don't have the qualifications." It's not very inclusive, is it? In my opinion, anyone who supports our mission should be able to join us, especially in this day and age.

My objection to the bylaws change involves the overreach of this board: "Language has been added to the Dues section to give the AAUW Board of Directors explicit authority to set a dues rate of \$0 for students or any other category of membership the Board deems appropriate."* Hmm. \$0 membership for whatever groups they select but for the rest of us three years of dues increases.

I encourage you to take the time to read the information and make your own decision. Those with an email address on file with AAUW National will receive their ballot that way. Those who don't may request a paper ballot by calling 202-785-7700 on or before April 16th (earlier is better) and mail it, postmarked by April 30th.

*Happy Spring!
Diane*

*source: aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-bylaws/

Slate of Officers for the 2021/2022 Year

Diane Millikin President
 Sonja Wendt President Elect
 Val Jones and Gina McDonald Co 1st VP Programs
 Penny Van Dyke 2nd VP Membership
 Tami Reyna Secretary
 Marianne Bakic Treasurer
 Kay Moioffer AAUW Funds
 Robin Clough Public Policy

We will be voting by email at the middle of April.



Photo Judy Evridge

Celebrating Our Friends Happy April Birthdays

01 Sheree McKeon
 13 Olive Bruins
 17 Terrie Cipriano
 28 Kay Moioffer
 Sue Jentis

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

Interest Groups

Interest Group Chairs

Bridge	Roberta Kessler
Afternoon Lit	Betsy Swallow
	Rose Drye
Great Decisions	Pat Horanberg
Lunch Bunch	Deborah Harris
Mah Jongg	Open
Mystery Lit	Louise Schultz
Winey Ladies	Debra Halcrow

Tech Trek



At our February meeting, former Tech Trekker, Terra Lee, gave us a wonderful presentation of her “Life After Tech Trek”. It was very inspiring to see the impact that Tech Trek can have on a young woman. As a result of that, Robin Clough reached out to Terra, and here, in Robin’s own words, is what transpired.

“I noticed her interest was in neuroscience, a field which my daughter is in. My daughter also attended Valencia High School and is a computational neuroscientist. She is a professor at Vanderbilt University teaching Computer Science and Electrical Engineering as it applies to neuroscience, and her main research is in functional MRI.

I asked Terra if she would be interested in talking to my daughter and getting guidance from a fellow Girl in STEM, and she was ecstatic.

I am excited to share that since then Terra has joined her lab virtually and even hopes to go there over the summer to work with her. My daughter was hugely impressed with Terra’s intelligence, maturity, and drive.

Terra created a group at Valencia High called Women Medical Empowerment, and my daughter will be speaking to them in a few weeks.

Love to see the generations getting together. This was all a result of Tech Trek!

Thanks, Robin”

Afternoon Lit: Jessie Benton Fremont

With an eye to Women in History, I’m going to share my thoughts on a biography I read last year about a woman who helped form our great state of California. The book is *Jessie Benton Fremont* by Pamela Herr.

Jessie Benton was born in Virginia on May 31, 1824. Her father was a Senator representing the state of Missouri so Jessie grew up in a household steeped in politics, entertaining, and lively discussion. She became her father’s right hand as she grew older assisting him with his paperwork and other duties.

Jessie met the dashing, adventurous John Charles Fremont as a teenager; they fell madly in love and she eloped with him at age 17. Fremont was busily exploring the American West with Kit Carson but always came back to Jessie and she wrote many articles and books recounting her husband’s exploits.



As Fremont moved into politics, Jessie really came into her own serving as her husband’s unofficial aide and political adviser all while raising children and entertaining lavishly. Fremont served as a California Senator, Governor of the Territory of Arizona, and ran for President on an anti-slavery campaign. He just missed getting elected by not carrying Pennsylvania, losing to James Buchanan. Throughout, Jessie was outspoken on political issues and a determined opponent of slavery which was excluded in the formation of California. By maintaining a high level of political involvement during a period that was unfavorable for women, Jessie Benton Fremont proved herself to be

ahead of her time. She died at age 78, a widow, in Los Angeles.

I found the book a bit slow at the start but as Jessie got older I got caught up in her relationship with Fremont. I’m not a California native so most of the political history in the book was new and interesting to me. Something else I enjoyed— Jessie and John always lived in elegant houses, and threw lavish parties, wining and dining political associates or business partners—whether they could afford to or not!

Betsy Swallow, Afternoon Lit Co-Chair
betsy.swallow@att.net

Have a Question for AAUW?

Keep the questions coming to **ASK US FIRST** at askusfirst@aauw-ca.org to get an answer to any question. If one of our Leadership Team members does not know the answer, we will find out for you.

A special thanks to Debra Halcrow for organizing the Humanities See’s Candies Fundraiser.

Virtual Lobby Day March 25

AAUW Virtual Lobby Day was held on March 25 and was very successful. Three bills were identified as priorities and we advocated with the legislature for their consideration and support.

AB 92: Childcare Family Fees had top priority and was co-sponsored by AAUW. The bill would create a sliding scale in covering childcare costs because currently many parents cannot work and provide for their families.

SB62 is the Garment Worker Protection Act and it asks for fair wages. Garment workers are mostly women often only paid \$5.15 an hour and working 12 hour days. During the pandemic they are working in close proximity to each other with no masks or hand sanitizers.

My role was to advocate for *SB373 Consumer Debt: Economic Abuse*. This bill will protect vulnerable populations from coerced debt. Survivors of domestic violence, elder abuse, and foster youth are often the victims of coerced or fraudulent debt by their abusers or foster parents.

Our State Public Policy leaders had productive discussions with Senate Pro Tem Atkins's staff, Majority Leader Reyes in-person, and staff from the Governor's office. Everyone they talked to thought we have really good bills, gave us some great feedback for follow-up, and are extremely appreciative of the work we do on behalf of California women and girls. Assembly member Reyes made a point of telling us that we are very well known and respected in Sacramento. We feel she will be an important and powerful ally.

The AAUW Lobby Day organizers did a wonderful job with research and training us as advocates for these important bills.

Robin Clough, Public Policy
robin16@aol.com

Time to Renew Your AAUW Membership

Now is the time to renew AAUW member dues. This year AAUW has increased the national portion of the dues to \$62, (a three dollar increase.) Thus the total amount due at renewal is \$102. An email will be sent out shortly to all members with an email address, with the information on how to renew.

The easiest way to renew is to follow the directions on the email to pay online with a credit or debit card. If you prefer the older method of paying by check, that is fine as well. For payments made via check, please mail it to Finance Officer: Marianne Bakic at 28823 Phantom Trail, Santa Clarita, CA 91390. If you have any questions contact Marianne at 661-297-5756.

Any new members joining after March 15th will get the remainder of this year free along with next year's membership. So spread the word of the good work we do and invite a friend to join!

Marianne Bakic, VP Finance
mariannebakic@me.com

Do You Belong?

A sense of belonging is critical for AAUW members to feel valued.

The new interactive DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) Toolkit includes the following explanation in the key terms and concepts section.

So if diversity means the characteristics that make us unique, and inclusion refers to behaviors and actions, then what is belonging? And why is it important? Belonging is feeling like you are a part of something, that you actually matter. It isn't necessarily about being liked—but rather being needed.

AAUW needs all of these things together, (diversity, inclusion, and belonging) for our branches to continue to grow and thrive. The DEI Toolkit provides guidelines for participants about discussions of uncomfortable issues. The new interactive **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Toolkit** (DEI) is now available at aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/.

Elaine Johnson, Director, diversity@aauw-ca.org

Zonta Women in Service

Photo Judy Evridge

Zonta Women in Service Celebration will be held May 15th at 11 am on Zoom. All are invited to attend this free event but must RSVP to receive the Zoom link at womeninservice@scvzonta.org. Our nominee is Ginny Gregor.

AAUW CA has hired a marketing consultant. Dowitcher Designs, located in Santa Barbara, boasts a past AAUW president as one of its owners.

Board to board November 2020

APRIL 2021 INTEREST GROUPS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1  APRIL FOOL'S DAY	2	3
4 EASTER 	5	6 BOARD MEETING 6:30 pm Zoom RSVP Stephanie Dietrich swdietrich51@gmail.com	7 VOTING BEGINS ON ELIMINATING DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR AAUW MEMBERSHIP	8 WINEY LADIES 5 pm Zoom Debra Halcrow debhalcrow@hotmail.com	9	10
12	13 RAMADAN	14	15 MYSTERY LIT 10:30 am Virtual Louise Schultz louise50@pacbell.net	16	17 AAUW-CA ANNUAL MEETING 9:30 am Zoom Registration required	18
18 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #E6E6FA;">Important Covid Reminder AAUW does not sanction in-person meetings at this time nor for the foreseeable future. Our insurance coverage may allow meetings if waivers are signed, but exercising that option would likely be tested in court. AAUW's guidance is in adherence with California mandates and in the best interests of all our members. Let's remain safe today and enjoy gatherings in the future!</div>	19	20	21	22 	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE nancyheinish@att.net	24 AAUW-SCV ANNUAL MEETING 10 am Zoom Louise Schultz louise50@pacbell.net
27	28	29	30 ARBOR DAY 	1 		

AAUW April Meeting, April 24, 2021, 10 am

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/95267904614?pwd=MmNiRlplFZ24wbmRPNGk2VkZET3Nsdz09>

Meeting ID: 952 6790 4614
Passcode: 351897

One tap mobile

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 952 6790 4614

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acEs5vNYAa>