



N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research

Volume 63 Issue 5

January 2021

Dr. Julie Synyard, Ph.D.
Superintendent of the Martinez Unified School District
January 20, 2021 - 7 pm

ZOOM

It's a new year so it is very appropriate for our first 2021 meeting speaker be Dr. Julie Synyard, Ph.D. whose new day job since October is as the Superintendent of the Martinez Unified School District.

She will "Zoom" in to speak to us on Wednesday, January 20 at 7 p.m. Dr. Synyard follows C. J. Carmack who became the superintendent of the Fremont Unified School District early last fall after serving for four years in Martinez.

An energetic leader and speaker, Dr. Synyard is in her 21st year in education having started out as a secondary teacher of History and English. Besides experiences as an Activities and Athletic Director, she has served as an high school Assistant Principal and Principal in two Marin County high schools. Before coming to Martinez, Dr. Synyard was Assistant Superintendent of Educational Service in the Cotati-Rohnert Park School District focusing on K-12 program development and professional development.

Since Martinez and Mt. Diablo Unified have worked very closely along with other districts since the pandemic started, the new Superintendent should have interesting things to say about running a school district in these challenging times. It should be important to all of us no matter what district we live in. See you Wednesday, January 20th!

Harriett and Helen



PH-M AAUW ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER
Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 10 AM, ZOOM

It's almost time! The 2021 Layette Shower will be on Wednesday, January 13, at 10:00 AM via ZOOM. If you are planning to be a part of this annual event, please send an email photo of your layette item to Reba Siero, rebasiero@yahoo.com, ASAP. Reba has graciously agreed to be our technical coordinator for this event. She will then create a slide show featuring each item to share with all the attendees at our ZOOM gathering. During that time each person will be given an opportunity to present her donation. Please also email me, sandjwalk@comcast.net, ASAP, to let me know you intend to be a part of the shower. I will then send you contact information prior to our gathering. It is my intention to pick up your layette item the afternoon of the 13th and I will contact you to confirm that detail. If you can't participate on the 13th but would like to make a contribution, please let me know. Our Layette Shower is a great way to make a positive beginning to the new year! I hope you'll join me!

Janice Walker
sandjwalk@comcast.net



FYI Longtime member Ginny Hargrave passed away peacefully in December. She was an active member of the Fund Committee for many years where she shared her wisdom and experience and where I had the privilege of working with her. Ginny was president of AAUW in 1979-1980 and also in 2009-2010. Please see her obituary in this Newsletter.

FYI It's Nominating Committee time! If anyone is interested in serving on the Nominating Committee for 2021-22 officers please let Gayle Miner or Reba Siero know. This is your organization, so please take part in it by serving on this important committee.

We hope to stay connected and see you at our General Meetings in 2021. Until then, stay safe, healthy and keep your spirits up.

Gayle Miner, 2020-21 Co-President
gayle.miner@yahoo.com

PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Happy New Year 2021! Reba and I wish you a happy, healthy and safe New Year. People have dealt with so much this past year, I am happy to see it come to an end. With new vaccines becoming available, I have hope that 2021 will be better and that there is a light at the end of the very long tunnel. However, we are not there yet, so there will still be masks, social distancing and Zoom meetings ahead until it is safe to meet in person. On that note, the Layette Shower is scheduled for January 13 at 10:00 AM via Zoom. Details for this event were in the December Newsletter. Please let Janice Walker know if you intend to be part of the Zoom Shower by January 10th. Reba is assisting Janice in putting this event together for new mothers who need extra help in providing for their child. We hope you can participate in this fun-filled event.

Our annual Coffee Klatch letter is coming the third week of January. This is a Fundraiser for Local Scholarship. Be on the lookout for your Coffee Klatch letter being hand delivered to your home this year instead of being handed out at the Soup Supper which was cancelled due to Covid 19.

FYI AAUW California now has a marketing consultant and an advocacy firm to make AAUW California more visible in our state. AAUW California will hold a virtual meeting on April 17, 2021. More details as they are available.



HELP WANTED

Our AAUW Branch has openings for the following officers and positions on the board that need to be filled:

Appointed Officers

Parliamentarian

Community

Education

Public Policy

Communications

Appointed Positions

Historian

Major Fundraiser

Let us know if you can help!



Virginia Granville Hargrave

In Memoriam

December 14, 1923 - December 21, 2020

Dear Ginny, our AAUW member for over 50 years, passed away on Monday, December 21, just one week after her 97th birthday.

Ginny joined our branch in the 1970's and was president from 1979-1980.

She was named Citizen of the Year in Pleasant Hill in 1984, and worked part time for the Chamber of Commerce. She was a proud graduate of Dominican College of San Rafael. She was born and raised in San Francisco, a true native Californian and San Franciscan. She loved to talk about her early life.

She married Seth Hargrave right out of college. He was in the Merchant Marines and then in the Navy. He was always Captain Hargrave, and his friends called him "Skipper". Ginny and Seth loved to travel on water. They lived in various places all over the United States, and managed to have five children. And now there are numerous grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.

In 1972 they moved to Pleasant Hill from Portland, and Ginny has been active in our Branch ever since. In recent years she hosted all the Funds Committee meetings and the III section. She regularly attended all the events (she was at the 2019 Holiday Party), until February, 2020, when she moved to Vancouver, Washington, to a retirement home and to be near to her family up there.

Ginny was an independent woman, a woman who knew her mind, never forgot anything, and was a true friend. She was a loyal member of Christ the King Church. She was strong and friendly and loving and loved to tell stories about her Irish heritage and adventures.

Margi Alkire



A Memory of Ginny Hargrave

A few years ago, as Ginny and I were leaving the funeral service for a mutual friend, she remarked that at the end of her funeral Mass, she wanted someone to sing "On Eagles Wings." I was to remind those preparing her service of that request. Since there won't be such a service for her in these pandemic times, I'm enclosing just the chorus from that song. As you read, or sing, the words, please remember Ginny.

"And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand"

Marlene Maksel

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** met on January 6th, via Zoom at 10 am. Reba sent out the data for entering the site at 9:50 am. We will be discussing *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. In February, we will be reading our Classic ~ F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will not meet in January.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on January 25th, via Zoom at 7 pm. We will be discussing *Eye of Darkness* by Dean Koontz. In February, our book is *Why They March* by Susan Ware.



****MATINEE IDLE** will not meet in January.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

7:00 PM

ZOOM

Copy deadline for the
February 2021 N.E.W.S.
Tuesday, January 26th

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com

(925) 917-1061

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG**

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

We usually play on the 3rd Friday of the month, at 12:30 pm. We would love to have you join our group, as soon as we are able to meet again. There is a \$2.00 per person charge for the clubhouse rental. If you don't know how to play Mah Jongg, but would like to learn, we will be happy to teach you.

Reservations are a must each month.

Contact:

Suzanne Salter at (925) 935-0861,

seabear92020@outlook.com

Gayle Miner at (925) 349-6795,

gayle.miner@yahoo.com



****GRAND SLAMMERS**

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

We are a social bridge group, which usually plays on the second Monday of each month at 12:30 pm at the Brookview Club House. We are not meeting until it is safe to do so.

Each player pays \$5, which covers \$3 for our Local Scholarship Fund and \$2 for facility use. All player levels are welcome, members and non-members.

Contact Marlene DeLaurenti at mdl@astound.net or (925) 934-4171 if you are interested in playing.



Pleasant Hill-Martinez (CA) Branch

**Advancing equity for women and girls
through advocacy, education, philan-
thropy and research**

AAUW FUND REPORT

Jennifer Apkarian and Claudia Bass, AAUW Fund VPs

Thanks to everyone who responded to the solicitation letter. Everyone was so generous. 39 checks in the amount of \$5,385.00 were sent directly to national AAUW Fund to support their various programs. One of the programs that AAUW Fund supports is the NCCWSL Leadership Conference (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders), an experience which empowers women to create meaningful impact on campus, mobilize their community, and prepare for personal and professional success after graduation. NCCWSL will educate young women about today's most pressing issues, help develop and expand upon leadership skills, and allow them to make lifelong connections with peers across the country. The conference will be held May 26-29, 2021. One application for NCCWSL has been picked up from DVC. The committee will review and officially select the applicant on January 11th.

Since our Fall Kinders fundraiser was such a success, we have decided to hold another one in the Spring. Sales will most likely start in mid-April. More information will be coming in future newsletters. Our next meeting will be January 18, 2021 at 2:30 pm via Zoom. We would love to have new members on the committee. Let Jennifer or Claudia know if you are interested.

Again a big thank you to all those who have supported AAUW Fund and the mission of AAUW.

Jennifer Apkarian at (925) 228-2027 or apkarian1@att.net or

Claudia Bass at (925) 372-8679 or cbasslancer29@aol.com

It's Almost Coffee Klatch Time!



The Coffee Klatch is our annual fundraiser to support scholarships for women grads from College Park High and Alhambra High. Because of your generosity last year, we were able to give \$1000 scholarships to six deserving 2020 graduates! If you haven't already met these extraordinary young women, you can read all about them on the [Community Action](#) page of our website.

In usual times, we would pass out the Coffee Klatch flyers at our January Soup Supper. However, this year they will be delivered to your door by our intrepid volunteers! Please keep an eye out for them to arrive during the 3rd week of January. A pre-labeled return envelope will be included,

so you can put a stamp on it and drop your check in the mail, or drop it in my home mail slot if you prefer. If you have any questions, or if you would like to volunteer to help with deliveries, I can be reached at (925) 768-4417 or vhewgley@astound.net.

Thanks in advance for your generosity, and Happy Holidays to you all!

Virginia Hewgley, Local Scholarships Chair

vhewgley@astound.net

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Diane Coventry

If you have any questions about the following Tech Trek information for this year, please ask Diane! This is the article from the most recent Board to Board email from the State. The article continues on page 8.

Susan Negrete, and Alice Hill, Tech Trek State Co-Coordinators, techtrek@aauw-ca.org

PREPARING FOR A SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL CAMP

- **2021 Virtual Camp Website is Launched!**

AAUW California and AAUW National websites are updated with access to our new 2021 Virtual Camp website. For AAUW (internal) branch members, it's easy to find new camp volunteer information, testimonials, FAQs, a button to contact Camp Director Mary Isaac, and more! Visit soon by clicking [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) for the link for external users (parents, schools, donors & public users, etc.)

- **How Can Branches Help the Virtual Camp NOW?**

Propose a workshop for the virtual camps! Click [HERE](#) to propose a topic or nominate a workshop presenter.

- **Virtual Camp Memo of Understanding (MOUs)**

Just as we do in the residential camp season, a 2021 MOU will be sent to all branches for either a participation confirmation or Opt-Out for this season's virtual camp. What's new? We're testing an online MOU to capture electronic signatures! Stay tuned for updates

- **Branch Packets in a Virtual World – Coming Soon!**

AAUW National branch packets for all states are currently under legal review. California's Virtual Camp Leadership Team will review and distribute packets with instructions to participating branches just as soon as they are received.

- **Branch Coordinator & School Survey Updates**

Branch and school surveys provided critical information for planning the estimated number of virtual campers to serve in 2021. An overview of the data received by the 12/15 deadline follow:

- 70% of 120 branches responded with their 2021 intentions;
- 60% were positive about participating in 2021;
- 20% were uncertain or not participating in 2021
- Approximately 20 uncertain branches indicated their final virtual camp decision would be based on whether 2020 selected students can participate in 2021 virtual camps;
- Other branches indicated due to the pandemic they didn't complete their 2020 camper selection process and didn't plan to engage with a virtual program or until residential camps are allowed;
- Over 100 schools shared their data and plans;

The survey feedback provided enough branch/school participation to continue planning three proposed 2021 Tech Trek Virtual Camps (final MOUs from branches will drive the number of actual 2021 virtual camp offerings). Schools' closing/opening data also confirmed that proposed virtual camp schedules of June 21-25, July 12-16, and July 26-30 are on target.

For all details, have your team review this informative eBlast from Virtual Camp Director Mary Isaac, which was distributed on December 29th to branch presidents, branch coordinators, and camp directors/treasurers.

- **SPF Supports Virtual Camp Deposits & Funds**

Thanks to everyone using the new process and updated forms to support using 2020 funds for the virtual camp and/or submitting donations to the virtual camp. All transactions and funds are safely managed by SPF. For more information click [HERE](#) for their website.

- **YouTube – A New Tech Trek Virtual Resource!**

We'll be utilizing this popular video site to provide a wide array of information on the 2021 Virtual Camps. Stay tuned for the rollout of many videos.

- **AAUW Florida, New Mexico & Washington Tech Trek Camps Consider California's Qualcomm Robotics Core Class**

After attending Camp Director Mary Isaac's Branch Coordinators' December Zoom meetings, these states are planning to use the Qualcomm course for their 2021 camps

(continues on page 8)

(from page 7)

- **California's 2022 Tech Trek Goal**

A return to the residential camp model when the time is right has always been our goal. AAUW's 2022 camp decisions will be based on national, state, and local health and safety requirements.

- **New Donors Link**

Click [HERE](#) to refer potential donors to learn more about California Tech Trek.

Branch Coordinators, STEM & Tech Trek Teams:

For a Tech Trek Program or Finance Questions

Contact Alice Hill & Susan Negrete Tech Trek Co-Coordinators at techtrek@aauw-ca.org

Or for 2021 Virtual Camp Questions

Contact Mary Isaac/2021 Virtual Camp Director at 2021ttvirtualcamp@aauw-ca.org

Please let me know if you have any questions about Tech Trek!

Diane Coventry

diane.coventry@yahoo.com

2069? 2369? 2451? WHEN WILL THE GENDER PAY GAP BE CLOSED?

By Ginny Hatfield, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

How long will it take? What can we do to make it happen sooner rather than later? These are questions that AAUW has been grappling with for decades. As we mark Equal Pay Day on March 31st, perhaps there is hope that we can make progress in decreasing the gender pay gap in 2021, given a new administration that is committed to social justice and leveling the growing disparity between the haves and have not. We also now have women in the highest echelons of national leadership; and as we all know, when women are in charge, things get done!

According to the 2020 update to AAUW's *The Simple Truth*, it will take white women until the year 2069 to achieve parity with men based on the projected earnings ratio compiled between 1988-2019. For women of color the numbers are even worse. Black women will have to wait until the year 2369 – 350 years – as their earnings ratio has only advanced a mere 7% from 1988-2019. And Latinas find themselves in the worse scenario as their earnings ratio has only increased 4% from 51% to 55% during this period of time, projecting their year of parity to 2451! (AAUW, *The Simple Truth* 2020 update)

The reasons for these disparities in the gender wage gap are known – and understanding what's causing the problem is the first step to meeting it head on. Members are urged to read the summary of *The Simple Truth* update on our National website which lays out the problem, its causes and solutions. https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/10/SimpleTruth_1.8.pdf

AAUW is leading the charge to effectuate change and you are part of the solution with the work your branches undertake on behalf of women and girls. The more we educate ourselves and others about the scope of this gender wage gap with programs like Start Smart, Work Smart, NCCWSL, etc., the more we chip away at the disparity. What is your branch doing to make a difference in the Gender Pay Gap? Let us know what creative ideas you have come up with to spread the word in these days of social distancing, we'll share them on the web (send to publicpolicy@aauw-ca.org).

2020-2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM

January 2021

All meetings virtual

- Jan 6 Morning Books, 10 am, Zoom
Jan 13 Layette Shower, 10:00 am, Zoom
Jan 13 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Zoom
Jan 18 Fund Committee Meeting, 2:30 pm, Zoom
Jan 20 Dr. Julie Synyard, PhD, Superintendent, MUSD
7 pm, Zoom
Jan 25 Evening Books, 7 pm, Zoom
Jan 26 February 2021 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
Jan 26 IBC meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
Feb 1 - 28 OML Book Fair Scholarship
fundraiser (see flyer)



Please, write any checks to the branch:
AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch

PH-M AAUW N.E.W.S. SPONSOR

Montecito Animal Clinic



5280 Pacheco Boulevard
Pacheco, CA 94553
925/686-0683
FAX 925/686-4754



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Karen Shore B.V.M.S.
Cindy Pieper D.V.M.

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