

Hayward/Castro Valley Branch
www.hcv-ca.aauw.net

November 2020



Empowering women since 1881

The Shareline

Share the Holiday Cheer

HOLIDAY PARTY

A decorative red ribbon swirls around the word 'HOLIDAY' in the title. A small holly leaf and red berry ornament is placed over the letter 'O' in 'HOLIDAY'.

Holiday Party..... Save the Date December 12, 7:00 pm

Our annual holiday party will have a different look and feel this year. We invite all members to contribute their talent and to participate. Can you tell a joke, a funny story, play a musical instrument, sing?

Join our planning committee, contact Linda Slater at slaterl@sbcglobal.net



Give Your Time – Until Everyone's Fed

Looking for a way to make a difference in your community this holiday season? Join me for a Branch work party on **Saturday, December 19, 2020 from 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM** to support the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

Our work party (wearing a favorite AAUW T-Shirts) would carpool to the ACCFB at 7900 Edgewater Dr. In Oakland to help sort and pack food boxes for distribution to families in need.

Due to the work involved, they ask that volunteers are able to:

- Stand and walk on concrete for up to 3 hours at a time.
- Bend and reach repetitively.
- Regularly lift 10-pound bags and occasionally assist with 30-pound boxes.
- Tolerate bright lights and some noise (e.g. forklifts and heavy equipment, as well as amplified music).
- Be prepared (layer) for cool mornings and warm afternoons. The warehouse is not climate-controlled.

The ACCFB follows CDC guidelines. All volunteers will be required to:

- Complete a daily health survey addressing areas including but not limited to symptoms, the County's shelter-in-place order, and social distancing. This will include a temperature check.
- Adhere to distancing guidelines.
- Wear self-provided face coverings that meet CDC standards (multi-layered masks preferred).
- Wash hands frequently, assist in facility sanitizing, and follow all CDC recommendations.

Let me know if you are interested in joining me in supporting the ACCFB. A day of work means thousands of meals for neighbors. If this is not your cup of tea, check out additional opportunities to help out ACCFB visit <https://www.accfb.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Thanks. Linda Slater, Administrative Officer

President's Message

Hello Branch members. Welcome to November 2020.

As Election 2020 winds down, ballots and electoral votes are tallied, we look to a new year on the horizon. What will 2021 bring?

One thing I believe is here to stay are Virtual Meetings, in some form or another. As our Branch has learned to Zoom this year, I've seen the benefits for our branch: (1) allowing members who have moved away to still participate in events and groups; and (2) It's liberated all of us from the need to hop in our cars to join in.

I do miss face-to-face interaction, hugs, and the feeling of having and giving my complete attention to the person talking. Although I believe 2021 will bring that option back, having a convenient and safe alternative is great too.

Before we end our year there is lots coming up in November and December. Book Review and Drama Group, plus a Virtual Dinner. More details in this Shareline. This year's holiday party is planned for **Saturday, December 12th at 7:00 PM**. We are going to try a new format. More details to follow. We welcome all who would like to help in the planning. Please email me at slaterl@sbcglobal.net.

AAUW CA has webinars in November and December to inform and train members about a variety of issues/programs. Check out the offerings at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-2021-webinars/> I will be sending out Yahoo Groups! notices so you'll have ample opportunity to register and attend those on topics of interest to you.

I want to give kudos to Pat Macsata for bringing Angelica Shirley Carpenter to our branch for her author talk on Matilda Joslyn Gage, suffragist and writer, almost lost to history. Ms. Carpenter spoke to us via Zoom on October 16th about how she found Matilda Gage through her passion for the Wizard of Oz. Ms. Gage was the mother-in-law of L. Frank Baum. If you would like to see and hear this fascinating talk, Ms. Carpenter has agreed to allow limited posting of the recording on our website at <https://hcv-ca.aauw.net/>

Hope to see you all virtually this month at a group, a dinner, or a webinar. Till then stay well, stay safe, and stay active.

Linda Slater, Administrative Officer

AAUW CA FUND LUNCHEONS

The CA Fund luncheons met virtually on two (2) weekends in October. Many AAUW members joined in to hear a total of 18 Fund recipients speak about their fellowship programs. They all had amazing stories to tell. If you did not get a chance to join in, you can still watch the videos of the luncheons.

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-fund-luncheons/> Scroll to the YouTube video you want to watch. There are ones for October 10th & 24th.

If it is possible in your budget, we ask you to consider a donation to AAUW Fund, and note that it is "In honor of AAUW California Fund Luncheon." Click [HERE](#) to make a donation.



Upcoming events



Virtual Dinner to Celebrate Veterans Day

Let's get together on Wednesday, November 11, at 6pm to share a virtual dinner from your own home. Just for fun can you make a dish using Red, White or Blue?

Tell us you are coming to dinner by notifying: patmacsata@gmail.com



Drama Reading

Thursday, November 12, 2020

1:00 PM on Zoom

The play for November will be "Mystery at Greenfingers", a comedy of detection! Most of you picked up the play on my porch when you brought back last month's play. If you did not get a copy, please call me as I have two more copies here.

This is a very complicated comedy/mystery which should be great fun to read. There are 10 parts, so everyone will have a part to read.

Liz Bathgate



Book Group

Monday, November 16, 2020

2:00 PM on Zoom

The branch book group has completed two meetings using our new format, Zoom. Members report successful discussions of two outstanding books. Thanks to Linda Slater, who is managing the Zoom, and Pat Macsata and Rita Sklar, who facilitated the meetings, the group continues to thrive in spite of Covid-19.

Monday afternoon, November 16, the group will discuss Albert Camus' classic 1947 novel, *The Plague*. The novel explores a pandemic of the plague in the French Algerian city of Oran and provides us with an amazing parallel to our current pandemic. Pat Macsata will facilitate the discussion.

Linda Slater will keep you posted on Zooming. If you have not participated before, and would like to this time, please contact Linda at slaterl@sbcglobal.net. All members of the branch are always encouraged to join us. We will not have a meeting in December.

The first meeting in the new year will be on Monday, afternoon, January 18, 2021. Ruth Rymer will review *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins followed by a discussion.

Future issues of the Shareline will announce future Book Group programs for the year ahead. We will continue Zooming until we are able to meet in person once again.



Evening Book Club?

Not everyone is available to meet during the day to share good reads. Who would be interested in creating an evening virtual book club?

Those interested please contact Sandy Boswell at sandyboswell@rocketmail.com.

We could discuss format, timing, moderator(s), etc.

The Nobel Prizes

The Nobel Prizes, there are six (6) of them, were a legacy set up by Alfred Nobel, a physicist, in 1901. The awards were to recognize people whose work has led to great advances for mankind.

The 2020 Nobel Prizes were awarded on October 9, 2020. The prestigious Peace Prize was awarded to the **World Food Program** for its efforts to combat a surge in global hunger amid the coronavirus pandemic.

To see a full list of winners: <https://www.nytimes.com/article/2020-nobel-prize-winners.html>

Here are five (5) interesting facts you might not know about the Nobel Prizes.

1. Posthumous awards

Since 1974, the statutes of the Nobel Foundation stipulate that the award may not be given posthumously, but a person may be awarded the honor if she or he dies between the time of the announcement in October and the formal prize ceremony in December. Only two people have won a Nobel posthumously, both were from Sweden.

2. Unlikely peace prize nominations

From Adolf Hitler to Michael Jackson via Stalin or Mussolini, the Nobel Peace Prize has, in almost 120 years of existence, seen its share of improbable, far-fetched, or eyebrow-raising nominees pass through.

Hitler was nominated for the Peace Prize by a Swedish MP in January 1939, on the brink of the bloodiest conflict in history. The proposal, meant as sarcasm and aimed at discrediting the nomination of Britain's Neville Chamberlain after the Munich Agreements, was however withdrawn.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, later tried for genocide, was also proposed, as was Jules Rimet, the "father" of the football World Cup.

3. Only one in 20 female laureates

While their representation among winners has been steadily increasing since the early years, as of 2019 women still only represented five percent of all laureates.

Between 1901 and 1920, only four women were honored, which has increased to 24% in the last two decades, but still only account for 54 out of the 923 laureates.

The economics prize has only been awarded to two women, but it has only been around since 1969, which can be compared to the physics prize which has only three female laureates since 1901.

Nevertheless, the first person to win the Nobel Prize twice was **Marie Curie**, in 1903 in physics and in 1911 in chemistry. Ms. Curie was also a recipient of AAUW Funds for her research.

4. Alfred Nobel the poet

Nobel went down in history as the inventor of dynamite, but he was also keen on English poetry and a fan of Shelley and Byron. He wrote poetry his entire life.

In a letter to a friend, he wrote: "I have not the slightest pretension to call my verses poetry; I write now and then for no other purpose than to relieve depression, or to improve my English." In 1862, at age 29, he sent a letter to a young woman that said: "Physics is my field, not writing."

5. Mathematics?

Why is there no Nobel prize for mathematics? There were longstanding rumors that Alfred Nobel's lover had an affair with mathematician Gosta Mittag-Leffler, but in the 1980s, researchers were able to put those to rest. There is nothing to support the rumor, and everything suggests otherwise. So why is there no prize? There are two likely explanations.

In 1895, when Nobel wrote his will, a math prize already existed in Sweden and he saw no need for a second one. And at the beginning of the 20th century, the applied sciences were in public and scientific favor. The contribution of mathematics to humanity was not as obvious as it is today.

Congratulations to all of the 2020 awardees. Your work improves our lives, our nation and our world.



Public Policy

SB 973 Signed by the Governor!

By Kathi Harper, AAUW California Public Policy Co-Chair

In 2018, AAUW co-sponsored a bill requiring companies with more than 100 employees to collect and report to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing data on:

1. The number of employees by race, ethnicity, and sex for 10 job categories;
2. The number of employees by race, ethnicity, and sex, whose annual earnings fall within certain pay bands; and
3. The total number of hours worked by each employee counted in each pay band during the reporting year.

The purpose of the bill is “to allow for designated state agencies to collect wage data to more efficiently identify wage patterns and allow for targeted enforcement of equal pay or discrimination laws.” The bill failed in 2019, and was re-introduced last year by the same author, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), and was signed by Governor Newsom on September 30th – the last day in the last hour!

Fifteen other AAUW California-supported bills were also signed by the Governor, including:

- Improved medical care for incarcerated pregnant women (**AB732**);
- Protection for women testifying in sexual assault cases from having their testimony of alcohol or drug use at the time of the assault used against them in a separate prosecution (**AB1927**);
- Addition of “sexual harassment” as a form of prohibited sex discrimination in higher education (**SB493**); and
- Expansion of the California Family Rights Act to require any employer with 5 or more employees to grant a request by an employee to take up to 12 workweeks of unpaid protected leave during any 12-month period to bond with a new child or to care for themselves or a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner (**SB1383**).

Finally, as part of our “white allyship” posture, we are proud to have supported six bills that were enacted to address racial injustice and/or to enhance opportunities for Black women:

- **AB979**, requiring corporations to include a specified number of members from underrepresented communities on their boards of directors;

- **AB1196 and AB1506**, regulating police use of force;
- **AB1460**, requiring ethnic studies as a graduation requirement in CSU schools;
- **AB3070**, addressing discriminatory use of peremptory challenges in jury selection; and
- **AB3121**, establishing a task force to study and develop reparation proposals.

You can find additional information on these and all our 2019-20 bills on “Capitol Track” on our website at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/bill-tracking/>

Member News



The branch sends warm condolences to Judy Harrison on the serious illness and sudden passing of her partner, Dave Krug. Dave has been a vital presence at our fundraisers and meetings over the years. His warm sense of humor and, even more, his music will be missed by all.

If you have news about a member who needs to be congratulated on a special occasion or accomplishment, who needs to be encouraged during illness or difficult time, or to be reminded we are here for him/her, please contact your corresponding secretary Barbara Jones at 538.0516 or by email at bb_jones@pacbell.net.

This is especially important during these pandemic times when we are isolated from our branch friends and not enjoying our usual meetings. Let’s show our friends know we care.

