



# Webinar: Care and Feeding of Volunteers

Save the Date for this Important Webinar hosted by AAUW CA  
Webinar: The Care and Feeding of Volunteers  
Moderator: Dawn Johnson  
Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2021  
Time: 7:00 PM

Members are burned out? No one wants to be president? Getting and keeping volunteers and leaders is both an art and a science. This webinar will explore ways to recruit, empower, thank, and more importantly, KEEP the modern volunteer. Registration required.



Click [HERE](#) to register.



**Tech Trek News** - SAVE THE DATE! **August 16, 2021** for our annual **Tips for Change** fundraiser at Gianni's (<https://giannissanramon.com>) in San Ramon. As of this date the meals will be take-out only and we will organize a little delivery service for those of you who do not want to drive to San Ramon. The food is excellent, and they have a great take-out menu. Give them a try.

We have three (3) girls attending the virtual camp in June and July: Laila Calvillo, Canyon Middle School; Isabela Zaragoza, Bret Harte Middle School; Sofia Cruz, Washington Manor Middle School. The main focus of camp this year is robotics. We will bring them back in September to share with us about this new experience.

AAUW hopes to resume residential camps in 2022 if all goes well.

Tech Trek CA is trying to organize alumni groups in each chapter. If we plan to do this, some volunteer help is needed to go over all of the contact information and try to contact former Tech Trekkers. I have not done a good job keeping track of all of our girls over the years. If you would like to be part of our Tech Trek team/committee, please contact Judy Harrison: [jharrison663@comcast.net](mailto:jharrison663@comcast.net).

## National First Ladies Library

### *Trivia and Fascinating Facts*



Are you as fascinated by the women behind the President as I am? Check out the National First Ladies Library website at [National First Ladies' Library](https://www.nationalfirstladieslibrary.org)

The library, in Canton, Ohio, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that operates at First Ladies National Historic Site in a partnership agreement with the National Park Service. In October 2000 President Bill Clinton signed a bill establishing the First Ladies National Site as the 380<sup>th</sup> unit of the National Park Service. Their mission: To preserve, promote and educate about the significant role of First Ladies of the USA and their

contributions throughout history. Click [HERE](#) for trivia and fascinating facts about America's First Ladies. Enjoy!



## AAUW National Election Results

Many thanks to everyone who voted in AAUW's 2021 National Election. It took mere days to reach the required quorum—a testament to our members' passion and engagement.

Julia T. Brown has been re-elected to serve as our National board chair for three more years, and Malinda Gaul was re-elected as board vice chair, and Elizabeth Haynes and Joseph Bertolino will retain their board seats.

AAUW's public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters. The board-recommended ballot initiative to remove the college-degree membership requirement **did not receive the two-thirds, or 66.6%, vote required to enact a bylaw change. The educational criteria remain in place.**

However, Julia says the National AAUW board is heartened that a remarkable 63% of you voted in favor of making this change, indicating a momentum shift toward a more inclusive membership. This was a significantly higher number than we saw in previous votes, which hovered just below 50%, to make the change.

Julia commented that while we have many voices, we all share the same commitment to AAUW's mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy, and our vision of achieving equity for all.

No matter how you voted in this election, you are a valued part of our community. In fact, you—our members—are our core community, and the final decisions about board leaders and bylaws will always be yours to make. Thanks again for making your voice heard.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about the election results.

# President's Message

## Hello Branch Members

Welcome to June 2021. With the arrival of summer, we are finally seeing a lessening of restrictions due to COVID-19 with the possible lifting of the mask requirement for all fully vaccinated citizens effective June 15<sup>th</sup>. What will we do with all the cute masks we've collected? Continue to wear them, and/or save them for flu season. I think they are here to stay. In spite of the pandemic, it has been an exceptional year with new ways of communicating via Zoom, allowing housebound members to join in to book groups; branch programs; and events far and wide from across the State, the country and the world.



Our branch looks forward to having many programs and events return to being in person, but we plan to keep a few virtual, like our Inter Branch Council meeting and some programs open to the general public. The benefit of virtual meetings is that folks can participate from anywhere without the burden of travel. I for one am grateful it was an available tool this past year.

There is no Shareline in July, we all need a vacation, so I want to alert you to the **Branch Planning Meeting on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 6:30 PM on Zoom.**

Planning events, programs, and fundraisers is an important task for any organization. Especially those like ours that are raising funds to support our efforts for Tech Trek, local scholarship to the National Conference of Collegiate Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), the Educational Foundation (EF), and the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). It takes the best and brightest minds to come up with ideas that are important, interesting, entertaining, and profitable. Not a small task. A Zoom invitation to all members will be sent out in June. Be sure to mark your calendars. Hope to see you all online.



# MEMBERSHIP

Dues are being accepted right now by National. You should have received an invoice from National this past month. It makes it really easy to rejoin the branch. You can click on it and use your credit card to send your money directly to National or you can send me a check for \$97.00 made out to AAUW. Send it to Liz Bathgate at 22112 Queen Street, Castro Valley 94546.

We have 90 members who believe that AAUW is a valuable organization and worth the \$97.00. You can write off \$59.00 as a donation to a 501(c)3 organization.

With this Pandemic coming to an end for those of us who are vaccinated, I foresee our getting together in the person this coming year. If you have any ideas for programs that you would like to see, please let us know by attending the Branch Planning Meeting on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 6:30 PM on Zoom. Thanks.

## Upcoming events

### Evening Book Group



When: Thursday, July 15, 2021

Time: 6:30 PM - Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88544605279?pwd=UjIjPSkVqSExVYVFBob29jcDZmaXJiQT09>

**Meeting ID: 894 8946 9550 / Passcode: 938511/ Dial by Telephone to +1 669 900 6833 US**

In May *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich was facilitated by Pat Macsata. Ms. Erdrich's book is a fictionalized account of an important incident in the life of her grandfather, a member of the Chippewa tribe.

### Evening Book Group will not meet in June.

We resume in July with *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson facilitated by Tammy Tribble via Zoom. She will intersperse with antidotes from her experience hiking a 166 mile section of the Appalachian Trail (AT) this June. The story follows Iowa native Bryson, who after living 20 years in England, decides to reconnect with his mother country by hiking the length of the 2100-mile AT. He plunges into the wilderness and emerges with a consistently comical account of a neophyte woodsman learning hard lessons about self-reliance.

In August, we will resume in-person meetings at Pat Macsata's home where Linda Myers will facilitate a discussion of one of Amy Tan's memoirs, to be determined.

*Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson will be our September read, again facilitated by Tammy Tribble. The Caste describes racism in the United States as an aspect of a caste system – a society-wide system of social stratification characterized by hierarchy, inclusion and exclusion, and purity.

All are welcome. Please join us.

## Drama Reading



We have had a good year holding Drama reading on Zoom, and just recently, as we were all vaccinated, we returned to in-person reading. As usual we will take the summer off and meet once again in October. Enjoy your summer!

Questions? Contact Liz Bathgate at [lbbathgate@att.net](mailto:lbbathgate@att.net).

## Book Group



The branch book group had its final successful meeting of our pandemic year on Monday, May 17. Five members discussed Gayle Tzemach Lemmon's novel *The Dressmaker of Khair Khan*. Linda Slater facilitated the lively discussion.

The group has survived the year thanks to Linda Slater who organized the Zoom meetings. Margaret Hankle, Genie Lester, Linda Myers, Pat Macsata, Carol Jarvis, Rita Sklar, Ruth Rymer and Brenda Senturia shared their skills by facilitating discussions, giving reviews and loyally joining the meetings. They and members who did not participate due to inability to Zoom, look forward to the autumn when in- person meetings will likely be possible again.

The group will not meet during the summer months. However, plans will be made for how the group will continue in September. Watch for further news about the group in future issues of *The Shareline*.

All branch members are always welcome to join this group. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Barbara Jones at [bb\\_jones@pacbell.net](mailto:bb_jones@pacbell.net).

# PUBLIC POLICY

## AAUW Vision – Equity For All

Discrimination against Black Transgender and Gender Non-conforming People

Archana Maniar, AAUW California Public Policy Committee Member

AAUW California supports “freedom in definition of self-identity” as critical to ensuring justice for a diverse and inclusive society. One group that is consistently denied this freedom is black transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Over the past several years, increasing attention has been focused on the multitude of ways in which these individuals encounter marginalization and discrimination. A recent study by the National Center for Transgender Equality addressed these forms of discrimination through the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. The study highlighted a variety of economic, safety, and physical and mental health challenges faced by transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.

Black transgender people had unemployment rates four times the rate of the general population and twice the rate of transgender people at large. A startling 41% of black transgender or gender non-conforming individuals said they had experienced being unsheltered. Black transgender individuals suffered extreme poverty at a rate of 31% which is twice that of transgender individuals of all races and eight times the general US population. Furthermore, 50% of black respondents who attended school while expressing their transgender identity or gender non-conformity reported harassment in the survey. Nearly half of black respondents to the survey had attempted to commit suicide and more than 20% were living with HIV compared to 0.60% of the general population.

The findings highlight the profound challenges faced by black transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and point to the need for social justice advocates and government officials to address the intersection between race and gender identity to assure equity of transgender or gender non-conforming citizens.

AAUW members can address the challenges faced by black transgender and gender non-conforming individuals by advocating for legislation that assures an even playing field and addresses the unique housing and healthcare challenges faced by this population. These will help us achieve AAUW-California’s public policy goals of equality, inclusiveness, and financial security for all women.

<https://www.thetaskforce.org/new-analysis-shows-startling-levels-of-discrimination-against-black-transgender-people/>

# CA Childcare in Crisis as State Reopens

In May, Randy Fewel, program chair for the Fremont Branch, contacted me about collaborating on support ideas around the crisis of childcare in CA as the State reopens. I decided to do some research about the issue in preparation for our discussions and found this article from CBS8 News in San Diego. This crisis of economic security for women, in particular, has a direct correlation to AAUW's mission. The article began:

The cost of childcare has always been a struggle for working families everywhere. Now, more than a year into the pandemic, advocates say the industry is facing an unprecedented crisis which California lawmakers are racing to fix.

Across the state, the permanent closures of thousands of daycares are hiking up the costs of school and in-home childcare and the ripple effect is proving to be a major setback for working women everywhere.

California currently ranks the third least affordable state in the nation for childcare.

It costs \$15,000 a year on average to send an infant to a licensed childcare center according to the Cal Budget Center. That is the equivalent of college tuition.

Now add COVID-19 to the equation.


In just over a year since the start of the pandemic at least 8,500 California childcare centers have permanently closed. Not only are spots now limited, tuition is up to cover COVID-related expenses.

A new [report from Lending Tree and center for American Progress and Child Care Aware of America](#) says the cost of center-based child care has spiked 41% nationwide during the pandemic. And it is sending demand for in-home care through the roof.

Economic relief aid may be compounding the problem. Caregivers still receiving unemployment benefits [aren't returning to work](#), making it that much harder for working moms to go back.

The latest [reports from the Bipartisan Policy Center](#) show 42% of women with children under 2 have left the workforce in the last year - a quarter of which did so because of caregiving responsibilities due to the pandemic.





Nearly 3 in 10

jobs in the child care industry have been lost during the crisis.



California Budget  
& Policy Center

“We’re seeing moms that have unbelievable careers that have made such advancement in the workforce... have to leave,” said Stacie Steelman, the CEO and Founder of Crunch Care, a national nanny staffing company based in San Diego. Steelman is even seeing the impact on some of her own clients, Fortune 500 company employees such as Bank of America and Apple, choosing to leave the workforce. “It’s not worth the tradeoff, right? You are paying \$85,000 a year to hire somebody to take care of your children in home. You’d have to be making upwards of \$400,000 a year to support it being truly worthwhile going back,” she said.

For families across all income levels, California lawmakers say there couldn’t be a better time to [overhaul the system](#). “COVID upended this system,” said State Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland).

At the heart of the pandemic, Assemblywoman Wicks made a viral statement about the struggle, showing up to the assembly floor with her weeks-old baby Elly in her arms. pushing for among other things, childcare reform. She had requested to vote for the upcoming bills remotely. but was declined because maternity leave does not qualify. “I had no idea that it would turn into this big thing,” she said.

The experience resonated with so many moms, it inspired new legislation aiming to give parents more flexibility when unexpected needs come up. But reasonable accommodations are just one approach.

The state legislature is working on increasing funding for early childcare slots as well as Universal T-K. Lawmakers are counting on President Biden’s relief bill to make it happen. The Golden State stands to receive close to \$4 billion in federal aid to help low-income families pay for childcare.

“I think the momentum is on our side,” said Mary Ignatius, an advocate at Parent Voices. Ignatius helps working parents across the state apply for subsidized care. But the process is full of red tape. “It’s a bipartisan issue... I don't know what the argument is against increasing and investing in the childcare system,” she said.

And as relief measures work their way through the system, Jamir is holding off on work for a while, to refocus her energy on baby number two. “You just have to really enjoy and experience motherhood,” she said.

CBS8 News San Diego, CA      Author: Lemor Abrams  
Published: 7:04 PM PDT May 13, 2021

## Member News



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](mailto: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.



Hayward/Castro Valley Branch  
[www.hcv-ca.aauw.net](http://www.hcv-ca.aauw.net)