

OUR REPORT

American Association of University Women

Ontario-Upland-Rancho Branch

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Monday
February 1
GREAT
DECISIONS
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Tuesday
February 2
BOARD MEETING
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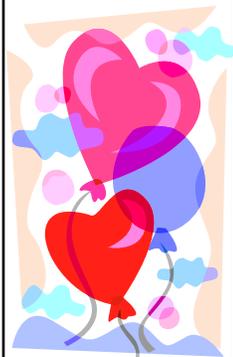
Tuesday
February 9
WRITERS
WORKSHOP
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Saturday
February 13
BRANCH
MEETING

Sunday
February 14
VALENTINE'S
DAY

Thursday
February 28
BIRTHDAY BASH
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Please join OUR Branch Meeting and Program Guest Speaker, Elizabeth McCormick, a US Army Black Hawk Helicopter Pilot

Date: Saturday, February 13th, 2021

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Your home via Zoom

We are pleased to welcome Elizabeth McCormick as she speaks about her experiences as a decorated **US Army Black Hawk Helicopter Pilot** who transported high-level government VIPs. Elizabeth McCormick shattered the glass ceiling in the Armed Forces, then in a corporate career and continues to rain glass as an in-demand international Keynote Speaker, and Leadership Specialist listed as one of the Top 5 “Leadership Experts to Follow Online.” Elizabeth has received many military awards and in 2011, she was awarded the **US Congressional Veteran Commendation** for her service to her country and community as a disabled veteran.

Elizabeth **inspires audiences**, sharing her pioneering and insightful aviation lessons learned in a dramatically memorable and **action-oriented** keynote presentation. As a premier leadership trainer and top performing founding member of the John Maxwell Team of speakers, she is a dynamic and energizing expert sought after for events around the world. So please join us in welcoming such a dynamic speaker and be sure to invite your friends, significant others, children and grandchildren to hear her amazing story of success.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I wish a Happy Valentine's Day to all my AAUW friends. It is the time of year to value our friends and I do appreciate each one of you. It is difficult to imagine how any of us would survive this pandemic without our friends, and especially our family, to support us and help us get through each day. Not only have we had to survive a pandemic and fear for our health, but we had a very contentious election in November and then an assault on our Capitol in Washington, DC. I feel certain that this was something none of us thought we would ever see in our lifetimes. Yet, we did. Through these times, it is important and comforting that we have each other to rely upon and this wonderful organization to keep us focused on a mission to change the things that we can. So much, at this time, is beyond our control, but continuing the fight for equality, pay equity, and touching the lives of young women and girls is something we can continue to do. We know we make a difference.

For those of you who want to make an impact, I encourage you to apply for a position with AAUW California. The offices that need to be filled are: President-Elect—one year (followed by two years as President), Chief Financial Officer—two years, and a Director—two years. The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2021 and you will find the forms and instructions on the AAUW California website under 'elections and nominations'. You may nominate yourself and I encourage you to do so.

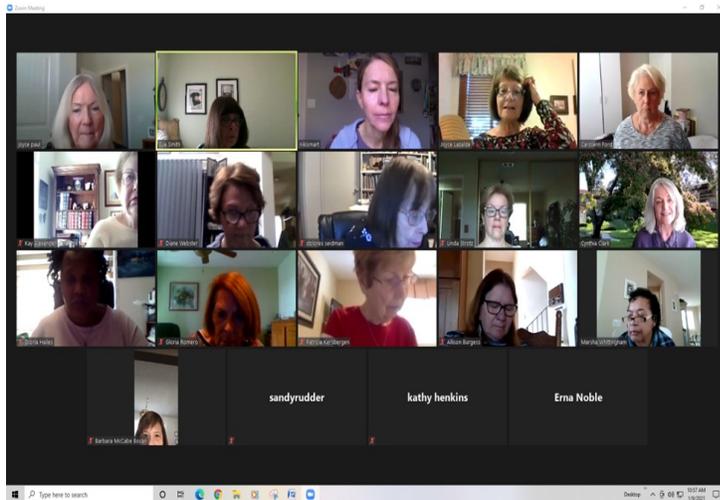
Please mark your calendars now for the State Annual Meeting which will be held virtually on April 17, 2021.

Joyce Lazalde and Barbara Bocan provided a very interesting speaker for us at the January meeting. Niki Smart spoke of forgiveness—forgiving both others and yourself. There were lots of questions and discussion. Please plan to attend our February 13th Branch meeting and see what Joyce and Barbara have planned for us then. You can read about it in this newsletter. Additionally, please plan to participate in as many activities as you can this February. It is a time to value our friendships and we need to stay in touch to do that. There is a light at the end of this long, dark tunnel and we will reach it together as OUR AAUW members.

Joyce Paul, President

February Board Meeting

The next OUR Board Meeting will be held virtually on **Tuesday, February 2, 6:30p.m.** Contact Joyce Paul , 909-463-3804 or joycempaul@yahoo.com



(Attendees via Zoom at the January, 9 general meeting)

Correspondence between OUR January Program Presenter and Joyce Lasalde, Program co-VP

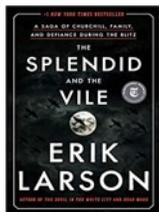
On Saturday, January 9, 2021, 11:14:24 AM PST, MrsLazalde <mrsLazalde@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Niki,

Thank you again for joining us today and sharing your story of forgiveness with us. I look forward to reading your memoirs. This was very interesting and healing as all of us are dealing with our own demons. During this pandemic, I have learned that I am a fearful person and have become paranoid of getting sick-yikes! Take care and again many thanks!
Joyce

What a lovely, warm and welcoming group. I truly enjoyed my morning with you all. Thank you so much for inviting me and for organizing everything. And yes, fear is a big one at this time - but don't let it overwhelm you. Assure yourself everyday that you will not get sick. A positive affirmation, that tells your body how strong and capable it is - - and then it will be.

With much warmth and gratitude
Niki Smart



BOOK GROUP

Our next Book Group meeting will be Thursday March 11 at 3p.m.

The chosen book is **The Splendid and The Vile** by Erik Larson. It's the story of the blitz of 1940 in London and a portrait of Winston Churchill's first year as Prime Minister. It's quite a long book (but there are 100 pages of annotations at the end) so get started early. If you have read any other books by him you know what I mean. There is an interesting section in **David and Goliath** by Malcolm Gladwell about how Londoners reacted to the bombing that you might want to look up.

Our January 14 meeting was very interesting. Nineteen people joined us via Zoom and Joyce Lazale found some great questions to discuss. We all liked the book but had lots of different opinions about the characters' motivations. Virtual meetings have some advantages and having nineteen attendees or more is definitely one of them.

Hope to see you virtually on March 11



OUR Book Group attendees on Jan. 14



BRIDGE I STILL CANCELLED BRIDGE II STILL CANCELLED Movie Group STILL CANCELLED HAPPY HOUR

Don't forget Happy Hour on February 10 at 5:00 via Zoom. There is no designated topic of discussion. The conversation simply flows over a variety of topics within the hour. Join late, leave early, whatever works for you is fine. Hope to see everyone there.

A review of the Writer's Workshop

This group has met three times and I have attended each session. We have had different attendees at each of the three sessions and each person has expressed how much they enjoyed their time. It is a ninety minute session, but the time simply flies. I have learned something new at each meeting and have never felt threatened to share my writing. Writings that are shared are not critiqued. That is forbidden. If you keep a diary or journal, you will want to participate. If you are interested in different types of writing, you will want to participate. If you simply want to try something new, you will want to join this group. Cynthia Clark is an exceptional leader and guides us through each session with her competent care. In case you were thinking about this group, I wanted to share my experiences with you. Hope to see you there in February. **Joyce Paul**

OUR Report is published September through June

OUR OFFICERS

- President: Joyce Paul 909-463-3804
- Co-VP Program: Joyce Lazalde 909-938-3929
Barbara Bocan 909-560-0527
- VP Membership: Pat Kersbergen 909-982-5488
- VP AAUW Fund: Gloria Hailes 818-207-3449
- Treasurer: Kay Alexander 909-989-5321
- Secretary: Diane Webster 909-985-8296
- Tech Trek: Kathy Kinley 909-986-4697
- Public Policy: Kathy Henkins 909-596-3920
- Parliamentarian: Linda Strotz 909 982-8165
- Scholarship: Paul Gomez 909 238-6444
- Wine Tasting: Gloria Romero 909 732-6707
- Historian: Martha Gerety 909 981-3856
- Newsletter: Carolann Ford 909 241-6900

Please have all material to the editor by the 15th of each month.

Carolann Ford
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OUR BRANCH AAUW PO Box 1173. Upland, CA 91785

BIRTHDAY BASH

Our date is **February 28 at 6 p.m. Via Zoom** again. We look forward to seeing you there!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Julie Zurek — 6

Judy Westbrook — 8

Leticia Fernandez --17

Maria Marvosh --18

Kathy Kinley — 19

Join us with your favorite cocktail and appetizer and let us know if we have missed your birthday. You will receive a Zoom invitation by Feb. 26.

Carolann Ford, Birthday Bash Chair

GREAT DECISIONS

The 2021 Great Decisions books have arrived.

We will meet **Monday, February 1 at 6 p.m. via Zoom**. We will be discussing **Ch. 1: GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS AND U.S NATIONAL SECURITY**

What are some of the lasting effects that the pandemic could have on global supply chains and trade?



The shutdown of global supply chains due to the Covid-19 pandemic brought to the fore an issue with the high level of global economic interdependence: what happens when one country is the main source for an item, say face masks, and then can no longer supply the item? Countries suddenly unable to meet the demand for certain supplies are faced with growing calls for economic nationalism. What are some of the lasting effects that the pandemic could have on global supply chains and trade? How would this affect national security?

We welcome all AAUW members and guests.

A Zoom link will be sent out to all who have expressed an interest in the group. If interested, please call Carolann, 909 241-6900,

Carolann Ford, Great Decisions Chair

Writers' Workshop

Our pens have been busy. This month we tried a new writing practice designed to train our brains to take in detail, quiet down, and use all five senses for appreciating the world right where we are. Not a traditional Haiku, but three to four lines that cut to the chase. Here are three with a spiritual or gratitude focus:

Faith from within
Shines to the outside
The soul glows. (Connie Uhalley)

Small within the Universe
No need to truly understand
Accept of what is—with gratitude. (Joyce Paul)

My heart sings
Songs of sadness
Songs for all who struggle today. (Diana McVicker)

For our **Tuesday, February 9** meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m., we will start writing for longer times during the meeting, continue sharing and giving positive feedback and work from a monthly theme. For February, the love month, it will be “memories of love lost and love found.” All are welcome, please email Cynthia for the Zoom link. Clark.cyl@gmail.com

Branch HAPPY HOUR

Our next Happy Hour will be on **February 10th at 5:00**. These Happy Hours have been so enjoyable with no agenda and open conversations on a wide variety of topics. We have gotten to know each other a bit better as we share our experiences and histories. The schedule for the remaining Happy Hours is: **February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, and June 9**. Each one will start at 5:00. It is my sincere hope that after June, we will be meeting for all activities in person. Perhaps we will still need our masks, but hopefully our meetings and activities will resume in person beginning in September. That is the plan. Hope to see everyone in February for a very Happy Hour.

Joyce Paul

PUBLIC POLICY NEWS

“No person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation”

We all recognize the beginning of the Title IX statement. Attending a recent AAUW webinar, however, I was surprised to learn that some people don't realize that Title IX laws cover sexual harassment, rather than just sports in schools. That happened decades ago, of course, and the Obama administration expanded the purview of the statute, advising schools and colleges that their funding could be at risk if they failed to make more aggressive efforts to investigate harassment and assault. Among other things, it also replaced the cross-examination of alleged victims by accused students with a trained, neutral 3rd party.

The Betsy DeVos Department of Education 2020 plan, which went into effect last August, made it more difficult for students to report incidents of sexual harassment and violence—and more difficult for schools to act on them when they do. California AAUW wrote a letter against the plan when it was proposed, stating in part: “The proposed regulations as brought forward significantly erode the civil rights protections currently offered in Title IX. This is an unacceptable approach and will deny too many students access to an education free of harassment, abuse, and/or rape.” Unfortunately, the DeVos plan was made into law. Things switched up again with compulsory online learning. While there are almost no sexual assault complaints at school sites, there is no explanation of how to deal with cyber-bullying that happens on platforms like Instagram which the school district has no control over, “control over” being a 2020 restriction of school liability.

Now, what will the Biden-Harris administration do? Given Biden's past policies to combat violence against women and his work to eradicate sexual assault on college campuses, it's very likely the president-elect will work to repeal and replace DeVos' Title IX rule. However, that process could take anywhere from two months to two years,

according to the Huffington Post. Webinar presenter Kiki Keasara, executive director of student equity and compliance at SF Unified, said she is “hoping it will be a priority and by early February we will have an idea of how to proceed in the interim until new Regulations are created and passed.” Until the regulations are overturned through legislation, there will be risks for non-complying schools. This is true even if the Biden Department of Education says it will not enforce the rules or it issues new informal guidance contradicting them. Only legislation can prevent expensive legal challenges against schools for failing to offer protections required by the law on the books. Other possibilities include relying on Congress to pass legislation to strengthen Title IX rights of sexual assault victims or, since 18 states and DC have filed suit against the 2020 plan, Biden could put the rule on hold until the suits are settled. In the meantime the administration could issue its own regulations. However, suits could be filed to force the administration to enforce the DeVos-era regulations. Stay tuned.

Kathy Henkins, Public Policy Chair

You Are Invited to Support a Virtual Tech Trek

AAUW California is working on plans to offer virtual Tech Trek this summer. The virtual Tech Trek camps are tentatively scheduled for June 21-25, July 12-16, July 26-30, and August 2-6. Each day the virtual camps will offer a robotics program in the morning and two workshops in the afternoon (one assigned, and one optional). AAUW members are encouraged to recommend workshops. Professional women in STEM fields will be invited to address the girls in the evenings. Dr. Mary Isaac who did a pilot program in San Diego last summer will be the camp director for all camps. We are hoping to involve some of our Tech Trek alumni as build coaches for the girls to help with the robotics. We are also hoping that AAUW members will be willing to act as social coaches to take attendance and encourage the girls. We are waiting for AAUW at the national level to approve plans before we begin the selection of the girls. A stipend for coaches will be offered. There will be a cost for the robotics kits and staff. Donations are welcome. We thank those who have already donated. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in the selection process or want to know more about being a coach at the virtual camps. Kathy Kinley (dr.kathy.kinley@verizon.net)
OUR Branch Tech Trek Coordinator.

**If you know of someone who is ill,
has had a death in the family, or just
needs a friendly “hello,”
ease call our Correspondence**

**Secretary
Diane Webster
818-515-3946**



MEMBERSHIP



Martha Gerety

This month we are spotlighting **Martha Gerety**. Martha joined OUR branch in 1971. This year we will celebrate her fifty-year-membership. What a wonderful accomplishment! Thank you, Martha.

Here is Martha's story:

I first intended to go into Pharmacy, but the school was at Ole Miss, and my parents had three kids in college. So I attended Perkinson Junior College in Wiggins, MS, transferring to University of So Miss at Hattiesburg. Graduate school (on a full scholarship) followed at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

I was walking in downtown Biloxi, Miss (my home town) and met a classmate and his new wife who told me about Speech Pathology!! I loved everything about it and changed my major to Speech Pathology at USM. What a lucky, lucky happening!! A chance meeting that changed my life!!

I have never experienced any discrimination. Speech Pathology was mostly a woman's field at that time. I had the opportunity to go on for a Doctorate, but I was tired of school at that point and was eager to get to work!

We were transferred to Ontario, CA (my husband was with Texaco) and the lady from whom we bought our house sent me an invitation to join. I'm so glad I did. I loved all the members, the goals, and projects of AAUW.

The group has grown to have many members from varied fields. Many of the original members were teachers.

Over these last 50 years, women have become more vocal and more visible in the work place. It's good to see that women are being promoted to positions of authority, because we are capable!!

My major accomplishments include the following: My family, of course. All four children have grown up to be good people. Regarding my career, I have loved every stage, especially the last 10 years, where I have been working in nursing homes. I wish I had more years to work there. I loved the work and the population.

Over the years, I loved all the meetings with the wonderful programs: the informative speakers, the interest groups, and, in general, being friends with so many nice people. I've always been supportive of the Chaffey College Scholarship Program, helping our local students continue to earn their Bachelor's Degrees.

On a personal level, I've been blessed to have a wonderful husband, Richard, four children: Richard Jr., Jim, Sara-ellen and Annette. We have 9 grandchildren, and one-grandmule, Jack! (I also have 60 first cousins!!). It's been a beautiful 50 years with AAUW.

**Autobiography by Martha Gerety
Pat Kersbergen, Membership VP**

OUR AAUW Fund

AAUW CA Board to Branch Board (B2B) updates:

Named Gift Honorees

Every year the AAUW California Fund Committee honors members who have done an outstanding work in supporting our programs and goals. A Named Gift is a special way to honor an individual, a group, or an organization giving extraordinary services to AAUW.

Branch Named Gift Honoree

Branches can make a nomination for each \$750 contributed by the branch or branch members on or before December 31st.

State Named Gift Honoree

This award is given to the AAUW member who has done outstanding work to promote the programs and goals of the AAUW Fund and/or AAUW California. We are able to submit one nomination for consideration from our branch.

If you would like for OUR board to consider a candidate for OUR Branch submission, please submit your candidate to any board member by February 12th.

Gloria Hailes, AAUW Fund VP

Please email OUREPORT editor, carolan4re@aol.com with news about yourself or recent accolades you have received. We want to keep other branch members informed. Thanks.



Ontario-Upland-Rancho (CA) Branch

FEBRUARY 2021

Ontario-Upland-Rancho Branch
P.O. Box 1173
Upland, CA 91785

Address Correction Requested
Time Dated Material

<http://our-ca.aauw.net/>
aauw_ca.org
aauw.org

American Association of University Women

Mission Statement:

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

California AAUW Image Statement:

AAUW is California's most active and diverse organization for women offering action for equity, personal and professional growth, community leadership and friendship.

Diversity Statement:

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

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OUReport



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