



THE VIEW

FROM SAN RAMON

Volume 36, Number 6

February 2020

TIPS FOR CHANGE FUNDRAISER EVENT



Monday, February 10
5:00–8:00 PM

Gianni's Italian Bistro

2065 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon
925-820-6969 or [YELP](#)

Thursday, February 27 at 7:00 PM

“Organize for a Healthy Retirement”

Presented by Joy Perkins

(See pages 3, 4, and 5 for details)

AAUW MISSION AND DIVERSITY STATEMENTS

American Association of University Women advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

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AAUW San Ramon Information

Websites:

Branch Website: www.sanramon-ca.ca.aauw.net
Webmaster: Isabel Lau (Isabel.lau13@gmail.com)
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CA State website: www.aauw-ca.org
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Branch mailing address:

P.O. Box 336, San Ramon, CA 94583

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Facebook: San Ramon University Women/AAUW

Co-President's Pen



Greetings!

We hope that your 2020 and beginning of a new decade is starting off well. January was sure a busy month with the Women's March on January 18, a program on the proposed Proposition 13 Reformation on January 23, and the activities of various special interest groups. If you are not already participating in one of the many groups or programs, I urge you to get involved.

Our big fundraiser for Tech Trek is on Monday, February 10 at Gianni's Italian Bistro. Seven of our members will serve that evening. The owners, Gianni and Melanie Bartoletti, generously donate 10% of the sales and 100% of the tips to Tech Trek. This year, we will raffle four (4) baskets that each include a bottle of 2015 Alpha Omega Chardonnay wine and a luscious selection of hand-crafted Belgian style chocolates with an estimated value of over \$150! Tickets are one (1) for \$10 or three (3) for \$25.00. Cash or checks will be accepted. The drawing will be held on February 11.

Be sure to make your reservation by calling Gianni's or visiting www.yelp.com. More information is on this page and page 5 as well as the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Lucy Weed
Co President with Chris Burchik



**Monday, February 10
5:00–8:00 PM**

**Gianni's Italian Bistro
2065 San Ramon Valley Blvd.
San Ramon
925-820-6969**

What could be a better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than an evening of delectable Italian dining with your loved one, friends, and/or family while supporting Tech Trek? On Monday, February 10, Gianni's Italian Bistro in San Ramon is hosting "Tips for Change" to benefit AAUW San Ramon Tech Trek.

Owners Gianni and Melanie Bartoletti are supporting our organization by generously donating 10% of the evening's proceeds, along with the tips, to Tech Trek. AAUWSR members will assist in waiting on your table and delivering your dinner. Make your reservations today by calling 925-820-6969 or visiting [YELP](https://www.yelp.com).

Melanie Bartoletti informed us that if you contribute your tip in the form of a check, it will be tax-deductible for you.



**Bring your checkbook!
All tips are
tax-deductible!**

Cordelia Hwang
Co-Chair, Tech Trek with Marielle Boortz

Program

Thursday, February 27

7:00 PM

**“Organize for a
Healthy Retirement”**

Presented by Joy Perkins



**San Ramon Senior Center
9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon
Room 112AB**

Join us to hear AAUW member Joy Perkins describe how to better our living space, whether we want to plan for retirement or just want to think about the future.

Topics will include “right-sizing” (to move or just declutter) and “Swedish death cleaning” (disposing of things you consider heirlooms, but your children don’t want).



It will provide plenty of food for thought and may prompt us to make some changes in our personal spaces.

Contact Mary Jane Keogh for more information.

Mary Jane Keogh
Co-Vice President, Programs with
Leslie Adams and Kathy Senti

Happy February Birthdays

Renee Coles	2/03
Carol Lombardi	2/18
Sally Scholl	2/19
Margo James	2/20
Kathy Senti	2/26
Victoria Bissell	2/28
Lynda Gann	2/28



February 17, 2020

Tech Trek



Tech Trek Update

This year the San Ramon Branch plans to sponsor six rising 8th-grade girls to attend the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Tech Trek camp at Sonoma State University on June 21–27, 2020. We are in the process of selecting campers from the four San Ramon Middle Schools (Gale Ranch, Iron Horse, Pine Valley, and Windemere Ranch). Young women who have a strong interest in STEM were nominated by their STEM teachers in January. Nominees are now completing the camp application, which includes writing an essay reflecting their interest in STEM. Later this month the readers subcommittee, chaired by Angela Godin, will review the applications and determine those young women who will go on to the interviews with our interview subcommittee, chaired by Judy Bracken.

Tech Trek camp is such a wonderful experience for these young women that two of our former campers (now high school students) have indicated interest in returning to the camp as junior counselors. In January, the Sonoma State Tech Trek camp director sent applications to all former Sonoma State campers who have expressed interest in volunteering at camp.

Adult AAUW member volunteers are also needed for this year's Tech Trek camp. Class Monitors volunteer for half- and full-day sessions, which could include accompanying campers on field trips or helping in workshops/classes. It's a great chance to meet the girls and see what Tech Trek is all about. They also have openings for two Dorm Moms. Please contact Diane Coventry, Sonoma State Tech Trek Camp Co-Director, for job descriptions and applications at 510-912-9306 or coventrydiane638@gmail.com.

The San Ramon branch Tech Trek camp account balance is about \$3,700 and is composed of money from the Wine Tasting and Chipotle fundraisers, raffles, and donations from individual branch members. Thank you to all who have contributed! The total camper participation fee of \$6,000 (\$1,000 per camper times six campers) assessed to our branch is due March 2.

Tech Trek Alumna Accolade

I received an e-mail from Susan Irwin, a STEM teacher at one of our San Ramon Middle Schools, describing her encounter with a past Tech Trek camper whom we sponsored.

I have a great story about this camp for you to share with the other ladies in AAUW.

I was on BART coming back from Oakland and jury duty last week. A young lady and I were the only ones in the BART train car and she looked familiar to me, but I wasn't sure. She looked at me and said, "Are you Mrs. Irwin?" It turns out that she was one of my students/nominees for the Tech Trek camp five or six years ago. . . . She is now a junior at UC Berkeley, majoring in a science career, aiming to work in Global Health/Public Health. She said the camp "changed her life!" Needless to say, her words were music to my teacher ears and I would like to thank you for offering young women this opportunity. You all ARE making a difference!

*My best regards,
Susan Irwin*



Please reserve by February 3!

Our big Tech Trek fundraiser, "Tips for Change," will be Monday, February 10 from 5:00–8:00 PM at Gianni's Italian Bistro in San Ramon (see the flyer at the end of the newsletter). Gianni's requires a minimum of 50 reservations (made on Yelp or directly with Gianni's) by February 3 (i.e., the total of all the reservations must indicate at least 50 people are coming) for us to hold this fundraiser. Four fabulous wine and chocolate gift baskets (appropriate for Valentine's Day!) will also be raffled off. Please come, and bring family and friends, to enjoy a great dinner served by your fellow AAUW members—and leave a big tip!

PLEASE make your reservations by Monday, February 3 if you have not yet done so!

Cordelia Hwang
Co-Chair, Tech Trek with Marielle Boortz

Membership



Membership Matters

Our San Ramon AAUW branch has grown to 105 members as of February 2020! Our membership is a group of dedicated, active, interesting women who have supported our branch, its mission, and its fun activities this past year. Thank you to all who brought new members into our organization. We look forward to further growth and inclusion of a diverse membership this year. Expanding our audience is critical to our growth as an organization and the progress of women and girls everywhere.

Remembering Jo Harberson

So sadly, Jo Harberson, a long-time dedicated AAUW member, has passed away. A celebration of her life has been scheduled on February 8 at 2:00 PM in the Diablo Room at Rossmoor, 3400 Golden Rain Road, Walnut Creek. Jo's family requests that any memorial gifts be made to AAUW, Jo's passion. Jo was one of the originators of the Moonen Lecce Giving Circle, AAUW Fund #4229, and a gift to that fund would be a great way to honor Jo's AAUW legacy. If you have any pictures or written memories of Jo that you'd like to share, please send them to Alicia Hetman. She will get them to Jo's daughter, Kate Thornton.

To further our mission and introduce our AAUW branch to prospective members, please consider inviting a friend, neighbor, acquaintance in another organization, or a co-worker to a program, event, or interest group. Special membership dues are available to prospective members joining at one of our public programs or events. This is the "Shape Your Future Campaign" opportunity, where the national dues are discounted 50% for the first year.

Another good deal for membership right now is joining after March 15. The new member would receive a membership through June 2021 (the months April, May, and June are free). Any prospective member that you refer is followed up with and e-mailed an explanation of our branch, activities, interest groups, and membership dues.

Happy Valentine's Day from your Membership team!

Alice Miller
Co-Vice President with
Margo James and Betsy Hoffmann

AAUW Fund



What Is AAUW Fund?

The AAUW Fund is the money that goes toward funding projects and initiatives at the national AAUW level. Your membership in AAUW helps fund an incredible array of programs to advance women's issues. And there is always more need than dollars!

Greatest Needs Fund

A donation to the Greatest Needs Fund supplies general support to AAUW where it is most needed for charitable programs. There are three broad strategic plan areas: (1) Education and Training, (2) Economic Security, and (3) Leadership.

When you donate to AAUW Fund, you can be specific in what your donation is to go toward, or you can donate to "Greatest Needs," and national AAUW will direct the donation to where it is needed most.

The AAUW Greatest Needs Fund is considered a 501 (c)(3) organization: Donations to Greatest Needs or one of the projects funded by it—such as Start Smart or Legal Advocacy—are completely tax-deductible.

AAUW Action Fund

The AAUW Action Fund is not the same as the Greatest Needs Fund. On the AAUW website, you might have noticed "Action Fund" on the top bar. If you click on it, you get a notice that you are being directed to another site. This is because The Action Fund is the lobbying arm of AAUW. The AAUW Action Fund, a subordinate organization of AAUW (wholly controlled by AAUW), is designated by the IRS as a nonprofit 501(c)(4) social welfare organization through which AAUW supports activities such as member activism and voter mobilization. A gift to a 501c4 is not tax-deductible, but still important!

We are working on the details for our annual Fund Luncheon in the spring—stay tuned!

Millie Kessler
Co-Vice President, AAUW Fund with Elaine Graves

Local Scholarship



Check the March issue for news about our Local Scholarship Committee activities!

We are already collecting materials for the next Silent Auction Holiday Gala's gift baskets. Should you have a basket or two that needs a good home or if you've won a drawing with a basket you would like to donate back, remember us. We'd be happy to take it off your hands! Just call either Susan Walker-Christensen or myself. Our contact information is on page 2 of the newsletter or in the membership directory. Thanks again!

Loranne Weir
Co-Vice President, Local Scholarship with
Julie Gin and Susan Walker-Christensen

Voter Registration Changes

Did you know that you must re-register to vote if you have moved, changed your name, or wish to change your political party?

Any changes to a person's voter registration can be done on the Secretary of State website, in the Elections Office, or by calling the Elections Office. Once the information has been changed and recorded, the voter will receive a letter in the mail and is asked to confirm the changes.

If a voter wishes to switch to getting their ballot by mail, they can either call the office, send an e-mail to voter.services@vote.cccounty.us or text COCOBALLOT to 28683 to complete that request.

The website is:
<https://www.cocovote.us/registration-and-voting-options/register-to-vote/>

Contra Costa Elections Office
555 Escobar Street, Martinez
(925) 335-7800



Chris Burchik
Co-President with Lucy Weed

STEM Highlights



This month, we feature two females in the STEM field—Christina Koch and Jessica Meir. They were the first all-female astronaut duo to walk outside the International Space Station (ISS) in October 2019. Their spacewalk to fix a faulty battery was the first time in 50 years that a woman floated without a male crewmate.

As I am writing this article, they are at it again. They are on another spacewalk to swap batteries to upgrade the station power systems. Their work is expected to last 6.5 hours today, and they are scheduled to do more battery upgrade work on January 21.

Jessica Meir is the 15th woman to conduct a spacewalk. She has been on the ISS since September 25, 2019. Her six-month mission is to conduct experiments in biology, biotechnology, physical science, and earth science inside a microgravity laboratory.

Meir began her dream of being an astronaut at 5 years old, when she was asked to draw what she wanted to be when she grew up. The drawing was an image of an astronaut on the moon.

Today's spacewalk is the fifth for Christina Koch, who just broke a record for the longest continuous stay on the Space Station by a woman. Her mission is scheduled to last 328 days.

During a recent interview on CNN, when asked about girls and young women pursuing their dreams, Ms. Koch said to do what scares you and follow your passion.

Lucy Weed
Co-President with Chris Burchik

Interest Groups

Game Night

First Saturday

Saturday, February 1; 7:00 PM

Host: Chris Burchik

Kindly RSVP to Chris. Have questions? Contact
Lucy Weed



Lunch Bunch

First Tuesday

Tuesday, February 4; 11:30 AM

This group meets for a friendly lunch with fellow members. We talk about anything and everything while dining on delicious food, and always get separate checks. This month, we're dining at

Imperial Delight 867-2888

290 Market Place, San Ramon

Be sure to notify Marsha on the prior Sunday if you will attend. To join the e-mail reminder list, also contact:
Marsha Froines



Chinese Mah Jong

First Tuesday and Third Thursday

Tuesday, February 4; 7:00 PM

Linda Louie

Thursday, February 20; 7:00 PM

Kathy Senti

If you have questions about this group, contact
Linda Louie

Interest Groups

Daytime Readers

Second Monday

Monday, February 10; 1:00–3:00 PM

We are reading *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng.
Host: Pat Barley

Kindly RSVP to Pat. For questions about the Daytime
Book Group, please contact Margo James



The Night Book Group

Third Monday

Monday, February 17; 7:00 PM

Anne Hayden will review *Virgil Wander*, by Leif Enger.
Host: Millie Kessler

Kindly RSVP to Millie. Questions? Contact
Cheri Ng



Bridge

Tuesday Night Bridge

Tuesday, February 18, 7:00–10:00 PM

Host: Lois Kamoroff

RSVP required: Contact hostess as soon as possible to let
hostess know if you are playing or not.

Questions? Contact Chris White



Interest Groups

Fourth Friday Flicks (FFF)

Special Event: Foreign Film Series Presents Two Fridays in February

San Ramon Foreign Film Series films are shown at Dougherty Valley Community Center's Front Row Theater.

Purchase tickets by phone at 925-973-3343 (Tuesday–Friday, noon–5:00 PM), \$10 each.

Let the Organizer know that you are planning to attend. Frequently, we organize a dinner prior to the movie that sometimes coordinates with the film.

Friday, February 7, 7:00 PM

Faces Places (French), Chris White, Organizer

Friday, February 21, 7:00 PM

The Insult (Lebanese), Millie Kessler, Organizer

Please Volunteer to Be an Organizer

We need an Organizer for May 22, July 24, August 28, and September 25. The monthly Organizer will send out a notice via Chris White to those on the e-mail list with movie, location, and time. If you would like to receive these e-mails, please contact Chris White



Joy Perkins

Designing Smart Solutions for Busy People
925-216-9883 • omnibusorganizing@gmail.com

Interest Groups

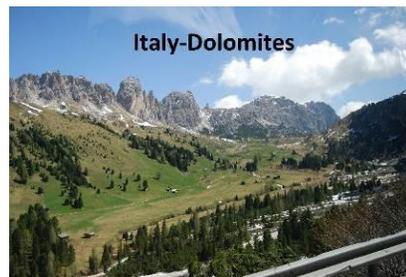
Travel Group

Many thanks to Patricia and Patrick Kelly for their excellent presentation about their recent trip to Spain. They included historical information as well as beautiful photos and an interesting dialogue to explain their experiences. Below is a photo of the Royal Palace in Madrid.



Save the date!

Please join us on April 11 for our final Travel Group presentation of the year. We will visit Northern Italy. Travel Group has enjoyed a number of presentations about Italy, but this one is new territory. We will share Chris and Steve Burchik's trip to visit the Alps, the Dolomites, Lake Como, Lake Garda, and Lago d'Iseo. They participated in an active tour that included a lot of hiking. They also took the Bernina Red train, the highest Alpine crossing in Europe, which goes from Italy to Switzerland.



Their presentation will be followed by a short presentation in which Renae and Steve Buckser will show us a very special and less touristy part of Italy: the Piedmont region, which is famous for its food and wine.

Travel Group programs are open to AAUW members, their spouses, friends, and significant others. We'd love to see you at our events this year! Because refreshments are served at our events, please respond positively to the event's hostess if you can attend.

Renae Buckser
Anne Hayden

FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:00 PM Game Night Chris Burchik
2	3	4 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Marsha Froines	5	6	7 7:00 PM Friday Flicks <i>Faces Places</i> Chris White	8
		7:00 PM Mah Jong Linda Louie				
9	10 1:00 PM Daytime Readers Pat Barley	11 6:00 PM Board Meeting Lucy Weed	12	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day! 	15 Newsletter deadline
	5:00-8:00 PM Tech Trek Fundraiser at Gianni's Stella Hadjimarkos					
16	17 7:00 PM Night Book Group Millie Kessler	18 7:00 PM Bridge Lois Kamoroff	19	20 7:00 PM Mah Jong Kathy Senti	21 7:00 PM Friday Flicks <i>The Insult</i> Millie Kessler	22
	Presidents Day					
23	24	25 	26	27 7:00 PM "Organize for a Healthy Retirement" Program Mary Jane Keogh	28	29

SNIPPETS

If you have a Snippet item (family events, career changes, etc.) that you would like to share with branch members, please contact Marsha Froines at 828-5707 or msfroines@icloud.com. **This column depends on member contributions.**

Save the Dates

March 12: Alzheimer's Association Presents Program on Understanding, Treatments, and New Research

