

THE VIEW FROM SAN RAMON

Volume 36, Number 5

January 2021

Welcome to a Happier 2021!

**Saturday, January 9
10:00 AM–12:00 PM**

Mental Health Spa Day

Featuring

**Valerie Keim
Licensed Mental Health Therapist**



(See Page 4 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: <https://sanramon-ca.aauw.net/>
Webmaster: Isabel Lau (Isabel.lau13@gmail.com)

Association website: www.aauw.org
CA State website: www.aauw-ca.org
CCC IBC website: ccc-ibc-ca.aauw.net

Branch mailing address:

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Appointed Officers

ART & WIND FESTIVAL

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Marsha Froines
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TECH TREK

Marielle Boortz
Cordelia Hwang

Co-President's Pen



Happy New Year!

This year, 2021, brings with it new beginnings and new possibilities. There is reason for optimism that the new vaccines will curb the spread of COVID and provide eventual relief from the burdens this pandemic has caused. We have a way to go, but we're hopeful we will meet the challenges ahead. Another reason for optimism is that we have witnessed democracy triumph with our recent election. We are hopeful that there will be meaningful collaboration among our lawmakers to address the serious priorities our country faces.

AAUW CEO, Kimberly Churches, recently provided some perspective. "All of us at AAUW are honored to have witnessed—and participated in—the power of our democracy, with impressive numbers of women, people of color and young Americans joining in with their voices and their votes... We are also encouraged by President-Elect Biden's promise to unite our sorely divided country and to find common ground and common good. Yet we are mindful of the challenges and the work that lie ahead. In 2021, AAUW will turn 140 years old, and as we have in every year prior, we will work tirelessly on behalf of women and girls to advance laws, policies and practices that ensure equity in education, employment and economic security—and equal justice for all."*

Be sure to join us on January 9 from 10:00 AM to noon! Our Program VPs have planned a Zoom "Spa Day" featuring Valerie Keim, MFT, who will inspire and energize us in this turbulent time so we'll be ready to face the new year. We hope to see all of you there! More details are on page 4.

As we continue to enjoy life at a distance in 2021, plan to get the most from your AAUW membership. Attend a program, join an interest group, read the newsletter, and check out the branch website. The monthly edition of *California Connection* via e-mail and our national website provide information about AAUW priorities and ways you can contribute to positive change locally and globally.

Best wishes to all our members and their families and friends for a happy and healthy New Year!

Chris Burchik
Co-President with Lucy Weed

*<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/aauw-AAUW-Statement-on-the-Election-of-Joe-Biden-and-Kamala-Harris-AAUW-Empowering-Women-Since-1881> (November 10, 2020).

Local Scholarship



Local Scholarship Fundraiser Update

Thank you to our AAUW members and friends who participated in the Mountain Mike's Pizza Fundraiser for Local Scholarship. We had a successful event. We received \$294.55, which was 30% of the sales of 33 pizzas. Great job, everyone!

We are moving along in reaching our goal of \$5,000 for Local Scholarship. With donations received thus far, we have received about half of our goal. It is not too late to support Local Scholarship by making a donation. You can send a check to AAUW San Ramon and put "Local Scholarship" on the memo line.

Checks can be sent to our treasurer:
AAUW San Ramon
Claire Mailhiot

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

Happy January Birthdays

Arlene Chang
Linda Mendonsa
Stella Hadjimarkos

Program

**Saturday, January 9
10:00AM–12:00 PM**

Mental Health Spa Day

**Featuring
Valerie Keim**



We are pleased to have Valerie Keim help us shake off the stress of 2020 and free up our energy so we are ready to embrace an easier, more expansive new year.

Valerie will guide us through six mental-health stress zappers that recharge our mood, calm our minds, and relax our bodies in just one minute. We'll be able to use these zappers at home to start our day, feel more alive if we're stuck at the computer, or get a good night's sleep. She will also provide a fresh personal perspective on 2020 and what it means, so we can truly move ahead into a new decade.

Come prepared to move, talk, laugh, and do some light journaling exercises.

Valerie is a Marriage and Family Therapist, a life coach, public speaker, conflict management facilitator, group and workshop leader, and author of mental health blogs and stress management materials. She has a lifelong interest in women's wellness and in promoting the unique mental, emotional, financial, and spiritual strengths of women. Valerie has a private practice in Pleasant Hill.

This program is coming to you via Zoom. Members, please check your emails for the details (link).

If you have any questions or are a non-member wishing to attend, please contact Kathy Senti at aauwsr@gmail.com

No RSVPs are required.

Please block the day now so you won't miss out on this program.

We will send you another reminder of this program as we get closer to January 9.

Coming in February!

On February 25, we will hear from our very own Sabina Zafar as she talks about the status of the City of San Ramon. We hope to learn more about the City Walk Plan, the status of the proposed gas station near Costco, and other proposed developments. Please block your calendar for Thursday, February 25 from 7:00–9:00 PM.

Recap

Despite COVID, this branch has been busy. In November we heard from Cliff Buxon about preparing for emergencies. In his presentation, he mentioned some resources that could be helpful to all of us. These resources have been made available to all of you by separate e-mail. We hope you are glad to have them.

In December we had our virtual holiday party. We hope this is the last time we do this virtually, but we have to say, you partygoers really know how to party even if you can't do it in person.

We played several rousing rounds of Bingo and several rounds of Holiday Trivia. Not only did we have fun, but we also learned a few things. We also learned how creative our members can be when they don't know the answer to a trivia question! Many people decorated their spaces and bodies in holiday attire. Some even made up virtual backgrounds that were downright amazing. We voted on our favorite decorations, and the winners were Elaine Graves, Alice Miller, and Beth Robertson.

Pictures from the December holiday party appear at the end of the newsletter (after the Calendar page).

Thank you to everyone who helped put on this party, including Lucy Weed, Chris Burchik, Kathleen Schaub, Margo James, and Isabel Lau. We could not have done it without you!

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

Public Policy



Be an AAUW Advocate

AAUW California Public Policy team announces first **Virtual Lobby Day!**

On March 24, 2021, AAUW California in conjunction with our new advocacy firm, MVM Strategy Group, will be conducting a virtual Lobby Day with our legislators in Sacramento. This is a terrific opportunity for branch members to get involved in the public policy process by helping the state Public Policy (PP) Committee advance our legislative goals for 2021–2022. It's also a great way to meet your local legislators and let them know how you, through AAUW, are helping their constituents in your communities.

If you are interested in participating, please register using the link below by January 8, 2021.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/56JT7XF>

If you choose to attend, you will be given full training in a Zoom webinar on March 22, 2021, at 7:00 PM. To register for this training, click

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-MBPqA7MRfmoToHJ87ZqMQ

This is a webinar titled “How to Talk to Your Legislators.”

Important Dates:

- **January 8, 2021:** Last day to register to participate in Lobby Day
- **March 22, 2021:** Lobby Day training webinar
- **March 24, 2021:** Lobby Day

Title IX Breaking Down Barriers 2020

On Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM, AAUW California will present this important educational webinar for our members to bring Title IX/Gender Equity back to a level where our members are "keeping their eyes on equity." Members will learn all about Title IX and how to exercise their voices to "see something and say something" so that they will become more effective as advocates for protecting our students.

Click <https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-2021-webinars/> to register for the webinar.

The speakers include:

- Kiki Williams, Executive Director of Student Experience and Equity Compliance at San Francisco Unified School District.
- Kim Turner, Senior Staff Attorney for Legal Aid at Work. She works with the gender equity and LGBT rights program.
- Jean Reed, Co-President of Petaluma AAUW Branch. She will discuss the AAUW San Jose Sports Equity Community Project.

Thank you for your support.

Cindy Alpert
Public Policy

Local Programs to Attend

Since AAUW Branch programs are now held via Zoom, it makes it easier to attend other Branches' events. Here is a list of upcoming programs in January:

- Benicia/Vallejo, January 9, 12:30 PM: Guest speaker is Denise Mitchell, an AAUW Career Development Grant Recipient. Denise will speak on developing a high school curriculum around Botany and Ecology and discuss her graduate research and the challenges of teaching high schoolers remotely. Zoom info: Meeting ID: 879 9118 6685, Passcode: 863514
- Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML), January 19, 7:00 PM: Guest speaker is Rebecca Bauer-Kahan. Go to the OML website for links to the Zoom meetings and registration for the Zoom webinars at <https://oml-CA.aauw.net>
- Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek (DAW), January 27, 5:00–6:30 PM: A program on Race and Racism with guest speaker Dr. Lori A. Watson. Register through EventBrite: click on the link provided here (**DAW-AAUW Non-members, please [register here](#)**).

Please let me know if you have questions.

Cindy Alpert
IBC Vice Chair

Tech Trek



Although the California residential Tech Trek camp was on hiatus for 2020 due to the health mandates of the pandemic, the Tech Trek program won't be dark for another season. There are amazing plans underway for a stimulating, educational, fun virtual camp experience for our branch's 2021 selected girls. The longer-term goal remains to resume residential camp as soon as health and safety conditions allow, hopefully in 2022.

The state has officially approved a virtual 2021 Tech Trek with all summer camps using a platform based on a UCSD pilot virtual robotics camp developed by Mary Isaacs, UCSD Camp Director, with Qualcomm affiliates. The SoCal pilot was a big hit this past summer, with virtual campers designing, building, and programming an automated, wearable hat. More information on the design and delivery of the 2021 virtual platform will be coming soon. There will be roles for branch members, former dorm moms, past Tech Trekkers, and others. Selection of San Ramon branch 2021 Tech Trek campers will start in the new year. Please let Marielle or me know if you'd like to help.

Meanwhile, the branch has continued to provide past San Ramon Tech Trek girls with information about engaging STEM activities, and they have been very grateful. The latest item is a series of STEM-related webinars that is open to all high school girls. It is presented by the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette AAUW branch. If you know anyone who might be interested, e.g., a granddaughter or neighbor, more information is available at: <https://oml-ca.aauw.net/girls4stem-webinars/>.

Our branch's one big Tech Trek fundraiser is scheduled for February 15, 2021 at Gianni's Italian Bistro, so please save the date! Look for details in the February newsletter. A volunteer is needed to coordinate the event with Gianni's people, who are pros at this. This volunteer job can also be shared by more than one person. If you're willing to help, please contact Marielle or me.

Please remember the Tech Trek girls (rising 7th graders) when making your holiday charitable donations.

Cordelia Hwang
Tech Trek Co-Coordinator with Marielle Boortz

Membership



Membership Matters

Happy New Year to all of our fellow San Ramon branch members! We enjoyed seeing and visiting with so many members at our December Virtual Holiday Party via Zoom hosted by Kathy Senti, Leslie Adams, and Mary Jane Keogh. Thank you, ladies, for organizing this festive event with games, decoration contests, and socializing. We had 29 members attend. It was a cheerful way to begin the holiday season!

We hope your New Year resolutions include an effort to attend and participate in the many wonderful and informative programs, events, and projects planned for 2021. We also hope you resolve to invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to one of these activities. The next virtual program presents positive ways to handle stress: "Mental Health Spa Day" with Valerie Keim, MFT, is January 9 from 10:00 AM–12:00 PM.

Happy 2021! We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming programs!

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

Thank You!

Thank you to our members who have generously donated to our major branch projects: Local Scholarship, Tech Trek, and AAUW Fund! In spite of fundraising challenges due to the pandemic restrictions, your financial support is helping to meet the 2020–2021 goals for their continued success!

Chris Burchik
Co-President with Lucy Weed

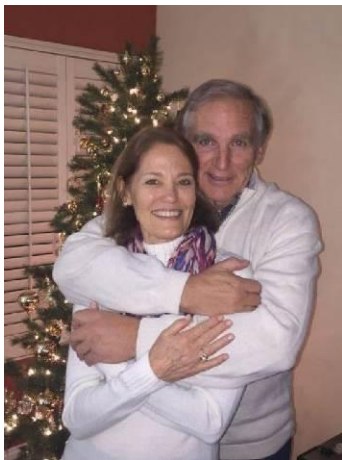
A Real-Life Hallmark Movie! Cindy Ferrin Engaged to Dave Church

Dave Church and Cindy Ferrin were high school sweethearts in Watsonville, CA. Cindy tells us:

The photo on the “Save the Date” card was taken in our senior year at a high school dance. We attended different colleges and thus drifted apart.



We reconnected at our 50th year class reunion. We found each other to be the same people we were in high school, just with more life experiences! It didn't take long to rekindle that high school spark!



Dave lives in Colorado and I live in California so over the past two years, we have supported the airlines—travel arrangements just take a little more planning! And with the pandemic of 2020, we have made many road trips to be together.

Our wedding will take place on Sunday, April 11, 2021 in Kona, Hawaii.

We are living a real-life Hallmark movie!

Fund



AAUW Fund Luncheon Fellows Highlight

As mentioned in our December newsletter article, we will be highlighting the work of AAUW American Fellows in our articles during the coming months. I found Jamelia Harris's October 10 AAUW Fund Luncheon presentation fascinating and timely.

Jamelia Harris

Jamelia Harris is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Urban Schooling program at UCLA. Her research is committed to centering the voices and lived experiences of Black girls in the K-12 pipeline and contributes to the current national discourse that calls for a re-centering of Black girls' specific needs in carceral and school system reform. At the crux, her professional and scholarly objective is to support stakeholders in gaining a more nuanced understanding of the racial-gender dimensions of educational inequities that are often overlooked in conventional policy, practice, and advocacy discourses toward designing inclusive, supportive, and empowering schooling environments for all students.

Some informative slides from her presentation are on the next page.

When we provide financial support to an AAUW fellow, we help them achieve their educational and career goals. We also contribute towards important work like Jamelia's.

How Much Do We Need to Raise?

The goal for 2020–2021 for Fund for our AAUW San Ramon Branch is \$3,000.

How Can You Donate?

Simply click the following link: <https://sanramon-ca.aauw.net/give-now/>. Select “Use My Gift Where It Is Needed Most (Greatest Needs Fund)” and **don't forget to use your AAUW Member ID so our branch receives the credit!** Our future fellows are counting on your generous and important support.

Respectfully,
Elaine Graves
Co-Vice President, Fund with Pam Bugbee

October 10, 2020 Presenters:

AMERICAN FELLOWSHIP	PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT
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Jamelia Harris



'Hidden Roses': Navigating, Resisting, and Reclaiming Geographies of Misogynoir Violence Among Black Girls at Desert Rose High School

Jamelia Harris questions how antiblackness, sexism, power and space/place perpetuate the hyper-punishment and domination black girls face in school. She explores the daily experiences of misogynoir violence on black girls in a "ghettoized" high school. Using a black feminist group-storytelling methodology, she examines how these young women self-define black girlhood and co-construct knowledge.

BLACK GIRLS ARE SUSPENDED 5X MORE OFTEN THAN WHITE GIRLS



(CDE, 2018)



SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS ORGANIZE BLACK GIRLS' & WOMEN'S OPPRESSION AROUND FOUR DOMAINS OF POWER: STRUCTURAL, CULTURAL, INTERPERSONAL, AND DISCIPLINARY.

– PATRICIA HILL COLLINS (2000)

Implications: Power of Ideology



A Collective Letter Written by the Black girls of the Concrete Rose Project.

We want teachers and other adults to know:

We are more than just ghetto Black girls.
 You need to know your students, their background, and where they come from before judging them.
 Some of us are loud and love to laugh; some are shy; some get distracted.
 But not everyone's the same, and not everyone comes from the same place, so don't assume you know us.
 There are things in life that can cause Black girls to act in a certain way. We might have an attitude and not express what we're feeling. We are human, and sometimes we do get upset.
 Be a mentor, leader, or someone to comfort us. Be there when we need you.
 Ask us why our homework didn't get turned in before you yell at us and assume we have no potential.
 We try hard in your classes, even when we don't understand, we always try.
 Take consideration of what you say because it truly matters and affects us.
 We are intelligent, beautiful, inspirational, devoted, independent, creative, loving, and *too real*.
 We are destined to become doctors, multibillionaires, entrepreneurs, cosmetologists, artists, and lawyers.
 We are determined to be greater than what society expects us to be because we are strengthened and empowered by our ancestors, mothers, future children, and ourselves.
 We are full of purpose and possibilities.

We are Hidden Roses

Interest Groups

GAME NIGHT

First Saturday

Saturday, January 2; 7:30 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

More information about the Zoom call will be sent prior to January 2.

Questions? Contact Lucy Weed



LUNCH BUNCH

First Tuesday

Tuesday, January 5; 12:30 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

This will be another virtual Lunch Bunch meeting as we continue to battle COVID. Your Zoom link will be sent to you via e-mail. To join the e-mail reminder list, contact:

Marsha Froines



DAYTIME READERS

Second Monday

Monday, January 11; 1:00–3:00 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

We are reading *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

Margo James will lead the discussion.

For questions, or to be put on the e-mail distribution list to receive a Zoom invitation, please contact

Margo James



THE NIGHT BOOK GROUP

Third Monday

Monday, January 18; 7:00 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

Millie Kessler will review *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DeAngelo.

Questions? Contact Cheri Ng

Interest Groups

TRAVEL GROUP

Saturday, January 16; 7:30 PM

Travel Group Zooms Off to Northern Italy



Please join us for our next online Travel Group meeting. Chris and Steve Burchik will discuss their trip to Northern Italy. Highlights included visiting Lake Como, Lago d'Iseo, and Lake Garda; hiking through the spectacular Dolomite Mountains; and riding the Bernina Red train into Switzerland.

The presentation is scheduled for 7:30 PM on Saturday, January 16. As the date approaches, we will contact those on our group e-mail list regarding attendance, then we will provide you with the link for the Zoom meeting.

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!

Anne Hayden
Renaë Buckser



BRIDGE

Third Tuesday

Tuesday, January 19; 7:00–10:00 PM

Via BridgeBase

Hostess: Chris White

RSVP required: Contact hostess as soon as possible to let hostess know if you are playing or not. We will be videoconferencing and using BridgeBase for our bridge game online.

Questions? Contact Chris White

Interest Groups

FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF)

Friday, January 22

Lucy Weed will be our Organizer for our first Fourth Friday Flicks of 2021.

In recognition of Chinese Lunar New Year, we will be watching and then discussing *The Last Train Home*, available on Amazon Prime and Tubi, and Netflix on DVD. It is in Mandarin with English subtitles. Watch this film in the comfort of your own home whenever and then join in the discussion led by Lucy on January 22. Please let Lucy know if you wish to receive a Zoom link. If you have questions or wish to volunteer to be an

Organizer during 2021, please contact Chris White.

More Info for Movie Fans: AARP is offering free films on Fridays at 5:00 PM, but you need to register ahead of time. The movies have been varied, but enjoyable. It is sort of a weird time but check it out if you are interested. Here is the link: To find out about new AARP Movie Night screenings, please visit: <https://aarp.cvent.com/variety>.



Joy Perkins

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



Support Our Donors

More than just restaurants!

The following is an updated list of Tri-Valley businesses who generously donated gift certificates and cards as well as items or services to our last Gala Fundraiser in 2019. In the spirit of mutual support, we encourage our members to patronize the following businesses AND let them know you are from the San Ramon Branch of AAUW. These businesses need our support now more than ever!

Alamo Ace Hardware–Blackhawk, Amici’s East Coast Pizzeria and Pasta, Bankhead Theater, Basque Boulangerie Bakery, Beau & Bella A Modern Day Spa, Bent Creek Winery in Livermore, Big Five, Black Angus, Blackhawk Auto Museum, BR Nails, Brass Door Restaurant, Bridges Golf Course, Bridges Restaurant, Buckhorn Grill, Burma Experience Restaurant–Pleasanton, Café Attila, Cambiati Wellness, Canyon Lakes Golf and Brewery, Chamois Carwash–Blackhawk, Cheesecake Factory, Chili’s, Christine’s Beauty Salon, Cinemark–Blackhawk, Club Sport, Concannon Winery, Costco, Crow Canyon Country Club, Dairy Queen, Dana’s Restaurant, Danville Chocolates, Danville Bowl, Danville Olde Town Bakery, Dublin Iceland, Dublin Ranch Golf Course, Earl Anthony’s Dublin Bowl (temporarily closed), Edible Arrangements–Blackhawk, El Charro Restaurant, Elements Massage, Esin Restaurant, Frankie, Johnny & Luigi Too, Gianni’s, Golden Sand Harbor Restaurant, Habit Burger Grill, Heller Jewelers, Home Depot, Hop Yard American Alehouse & Grill, Joy Perkins (Omnibus Organizing), Katy’s Korner, Law Offices of Patricia Leong, Linda Hamilton (LuLaRoe Clothing), Lindsay Wildlife Experience, Locanda Ravello, Luna Loca, Lunardi’s Market, Ma Jolie Salon, Main Street Kitchen–Walnut Creek, Marine Mammal Center, Mark Stephenson–Photographer, Martial Arts America, McDonald’s, Mod Pizza, Mountain Mike’s Pizza, New Moon Restaurant, Nob Hill Foods, Noland’s Cake Shop, Nothing Bundt Cakes–Dublin, Oakland Zoo, Oksana Elegant Grooming, Pacific Catch, Panda Express, Patxi’s Pizza, Peet’s Coffee & Tea, Pete’s Brass Rail & Car Wash, Quarry Hill Botanical–Glen Ellen, Rakestraw Books, Rigatoni’s, Rolls Deli (temporarily closed), San Ramon Marriott, Shabu Shabu, Shampooches, Sky Terrace Vineyard, Sports Basement–San Ramon, Sprouts, Starbucks (any), Strizzi’s, Subway, Target–San Ramon, Terra Cotta Outdoor Living, The Lot, Three Brothers from China, Trader Joe’s, True Food Kitchen–WC, UPS Store–Marketplace, Walmart, Worth Group (Peasant and Pear), Yersen’s Gelato Cakes, Zachary’s Pizza–San Ramon

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2 7:30 PM Game Night Lucy Weed
3	4	5 12:30 PM Lunch Bunch Marsha Froines	6	7	8	9 10:00 AM Mental Health Spa Day Kathy Senti
10	11 1:00 PM Daytime Readers Margo James 7:00 PM Board Meeting Lucy Weed	12	13	14	15 <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	16 7:30 PM Travel Group Zooms Off to Northern Italy Renaë Buckser
17	18 7:00 PM Night Book Group Cheri Ng <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	19 7:00 PM Bridge Chris White	20 8:30 AM Presidential Inauguration 	21	22 Fourth Friday Flicks Lucy Weed	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Snippets

Our condolences are with Pat Campbell, who lost her husband Barry on Friday morning, December 18, 2020 after a battle to regain his health that lasted for several weeks. Their children, Cari and Christopher, are with Pat right now to support her and help her deal with this sad loss. Pat and Barry enjoyed a long, happy marriage together.

If you have a Snippet item (family events, career changes, etc.) that you would like to share with branch members, please contact Marsha Froines. **This column depends on member contributions.**

Save the Dates

Monday, February 15: Tips for Change Fundraiser at Gianni's
Thursday, February 25: Program with Sabina Zafar