

# THE VIEW FROM SAN RAMON

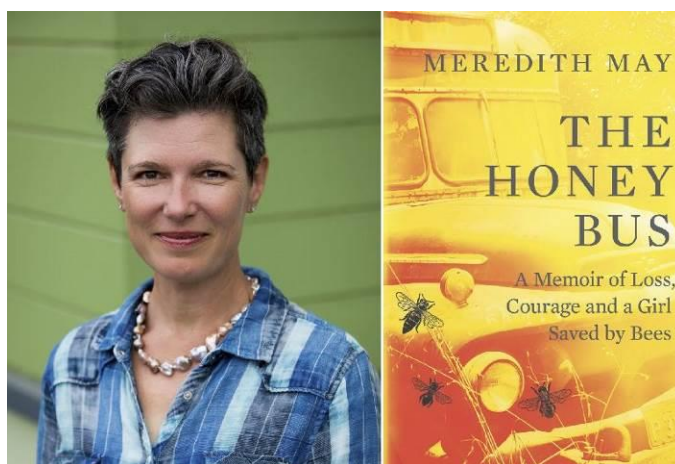
Volume 37, Number 8

April 2021

**Thursday, April 8  
7:00 PM via Zoom**

***Featuring***

**Meredith May  
Author of *The Honey Bus***



**(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.

## 2020–2021 Board

### CO-PRESIDENTS

Chris Burchik  
Lucy Weed

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENTS

Chris Burchik  
Lucy Weed

### CO-PRESIDENTS ELECT

Janice Colby  
Kathleen Schaub

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, PROGRAM

Leslie Adams  
MaryJane Keogh  
Kathy Senti

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, MEMBERSHIP

Betsy Hoffmann  
Margo James  
Alice Miller

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, THE FUND

Pam Bugbee  
Elaine Graves

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, SCHOLARSHIP

Julie Gin  
Susan Walker-Christensen  
Loranne Weir

### VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE

Claire Mailhot

### CO-RECORDING SECRETARIES

Judy Bracken  
Beth Robertson

## AAUW San Ramon Information

### **Websites:**

Branch Website: [www.sanramon-ca.aauw.net](http://www.sanramon-ca.aauw.net)  
Webmaster: Isabel Lau  
Association website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)  
CA State website: [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)  
CCC IBC website: [ccc-ibc-ca.aauw.net](http://ccc-ibc-ca.aauw.net)

### **Branch mailing address:**

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

### **Branch e-mail address:**

[aauwsr@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsr@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** San Ramon University Women/AAUW

## Appointed Officers

### ART & WIND FESTIVAL

Janet Williams

### COMMUNICATION

Isabel Lau

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Lois Kamoroff

### HOSPITALITY/FELLOWSHIP

Betsy Hoffmann  
Andree Chagnon

### NEWSLETTER

Marsha Froines  
Carol Lombardi

### PUBLIC POLICY

Cindy Alpert

### TECH TREK

Marielle Boortz  
Cordelia Hwang

## Co President's Pen



Spring is here—the season of new beginnings. It symbolizes a time of renewal, represents an awakening, and is literally a breath of fresh air. As we are hopefully entering a new phase of the COVID19 pandemic—with fewer illnesses and more vaccinations—we can slowly venture into the world.

March was a busy month with two programs. The first, “Understanding Alzheimer’s” had 11 non-members join us, due to Isabel Lau posting this program on social media, such as Facebook and our website. Our other program concerned the upcoming vote on the university requirement elimination. Please see page 4 for more information. Hopefully, you were able to join the call to hear Peggy Cabaniss speak about why national AAUW recommends removing the associate or university degree as a requirement to join AAUW.

On March 24, Kathleen Schaub represented our branch at Lobby Day--see her summary on page 11.

Thank you to our Program Co-VPs for the outstanding programs they have planned for this year, including the program on April 8 featuring Meredith May, author of *The Honey Bus*, as our guest speaker. She was a recipient of an AAUW California grant and used it to pursue an MFA in creative nonfiction and to write her memoir. See page 4 for more information.

Julie Gin and Alice Miller headed our nominating committee, which included Fran Bartholomew, Millie Kessler, and Joy Perkins. Thank you for presenting a slate of new and returning board members. Per our bylaws, we will vote at a general meeting that will be part of the April 8 program. The program will start promptly at 7:00 PM, with presentation of the slate and vote by our members. Please see the box on the right for the board nominees for 2021–2022.

We hope that you will have a safe and healthy spring.

Lucy Weed  
Co-President with Chris Burchik

**VOTE**  
for our Branch Board of Directors  
for 2021–2022 at the  
April 8 Program!

### **Candidates for the AAUW San Ramon Board of Directors for 2021–2022**

Co-Presidents: Janice Colby and Kathleen Schaub  
Immediate Past Presidents: Chris Burchik and Lucy Weed  
Co-VPs Program: Cindy Alpert, Lynda Gann, and Luz Gomez  
Co-VPs Membership: Harvalee Grimm, Betsy Hoffmann, and Margo James  
CO-VPs FUND: Pam Bugbee and Elaine Graves  
Co-VPs Local Scholarship: Julie Gin, Susan Walker-Christensen, and Loranne Weir  
Co-VPs Finance: Claire Mailhiot and Patty Nobles  
Co-Recording Secretaries: Judy Bracken and Beth Robertson

Our THANKS to this year's Nominating Committee—Julie Gin, Alice Miller, Fran Bartholomew, Millie Kessler, Joy Perkins—for their successful efforts in securing a slate of talented and dedicated members for our incoming board.

Chris Burchik  
Co-President with Lucy Weed

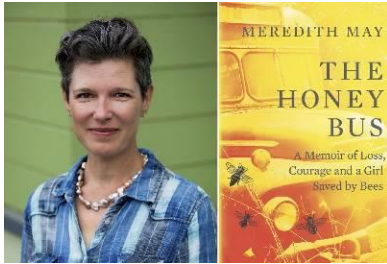
### **April Birthdays**

Loranne Weir  
Fiona Waterhouse  
Patty Nobles  
Patricia Kelly  
Betsy Hoffmann  
Lael Adediji  
Priscilla Spinner

## Program

**Thursday, April 8  
7:00 PM via Zoom**

**Featuring  
Meredith May  
Author of *The Honey Bus***



"Bee" on the lookout for the Zoom link in early April to attend author Meredith May's presentation about her fascinating memoir. And to make it more interesting, member Diane Griffiths suggested we view a documentary about bees entitled *The Pollinators* (available on Apple TV, Amazon Prime, Kanopy, and others). Meredith May attended its premier in San Francisco and highly recommends it!

We will attend to a bit of AAUW business for the first 5 minutes of the program. As is traditional during the final program of the year, we will take a quick vote to approve the new slate of officers. Chris Burchik and Lucy Weed will provide us with the relevant information beforehand.

Meredith May is "an award-winning journalist and fifth-generation beekeeper" who has written a compelling memoir, *The Honey Bus* (HarperCollins/Park Row Books, 2019), which "reveals the life lessons she learned in her grandfather's Big Sur bee yard that rescued her from a difficult childhood." See the flyer attached after the Calendar page.

Meredith, who currently lives in Carmel Valley, was a journalist for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and a former professor of journalism and podcasting at Mills College in Oakland. Prior to *The Honey Bus*, she wrote *I, Who Did Not Die*, "the true story of an Iranian child soldier who risked his life to save an enemy during the Iran-Iraq War."

Non-members wishing to attend may e-mail us at [aauwsr@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsr@gmail.com) by April 6.

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Source: Quotes are from <https://meredithamay.net/bio/>.

## Thanks!

We thank all our members who have supported and attended this year's programs. Having to switch suddenly to a Zoom venue brought about all sorts of challenges, and we couldn't have done it without the help of Lucy Weed, Chris Burchik, Marsha Froines, Carol Lombardi, Isabel Lau, Kathleen Schaub, Marielle Boortz, and Cindy Alpert. A huge "thank you" to them! Our intention was to provide education and entertainment with a variety of topics, and we hope we were successful.

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

## From the AAUW Board of Directors

In April and May, members will have an opportunity to vote on whether or not to remove the requirement to have a university degree in order to belong to AAUW. Finance Chair Peggy Cabannis, who is on the national board, spoke about this upcoming vote on March 24 via Zoom to our members.

For more information, please see this website, which is the source of the message below:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/open-membership-toolkit/>

The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW's bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to the educational attainment of all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that, while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

Voting will open on April 7, 2021 and close May 17, 2021 5:00 PM ET.

—AAUW Board of Directors

*Contributed by Lucy Weed, Co-President, San Ramon*

## Local Scholarship



### Mountain Mike's Fundraiser Update

Thank you to our AAUW members, family, neighbors, and friends who participated in the Mountain Mike's pizza fundraiser for Local Scholarship on March 11. We are really pleased with the wonderful support from everyone! We received a check for **\$300**, which was 30 percent of the sales for the day.

We have reached our goal of \$5,000 and surpassed it. If you'd like to support Local Scholarship, it's not too late. The more money we raise, the more scholarships we can give this year. You can send a check to AAUW San Ramon and write "Local Scholarship" on the memo line.

Checks can be sent to our treasurer, Claire Mailhiot at 70 Mesquite Lane in San Ramon, CA 94583. If you'd like a tax write-off, on the memo line write "SPF." Your check will be sent to the Special Project Fund in Sacramento.

### Shredding Event Fundraiser

**Saturday, April 24**  
**10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**  
(Event is over when shredding truck is full!)

**Bollinger Hills Cabana Parking Lot**  
**2949 Morgan Drive, San Ramon**

**Suggested Donation**  
**\$12 per Banker's Box or Grocery Bag**



Our shredding event fundraiser is back! With the help of Janice Colby and Janice Nugent, we are able to hold this event again, so you can use the first three weeks of April to clean out your files while you're gathering your tax documents!

Please contact Susan if you have more questions.

Julie Gin and Susan Walker-Christensen  
Co-Vice Presidents, Local Scholarship with Lorraine Weir

## Membership



### Membership Matters

Our membership renewal season will begin late April/early May. Look for an e-mail message sent to you from [memberinfo@aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@aauw.org) with the subject "AAUW Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2022" that will contain your unique renewal link. You'll see that you do not need to log in, just click on your link and renew! It is that simple. We strongly encourage you to renew by credit card using this e-mailed link. It is quick and easy for you, and it saves time, resources, and money for the branch.

If you prefer to pay by check, please print the e-mail that you receive. Note any changes to your contact information on the form and return the form with dues check payable to AAUW San Ramon to our Finance Vice President, Claire Mailhiot, 70 Mesquite Lane, San Ramon, CA 94583.

As a reminder, AAUW Membership dues are **\$102**. National dues are \$62, of which \$59 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution, and \$3 is not (because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's Section 501(c)(4) Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities). California dues are \$20 and branch dues are \$20. Life members pay only state and branch dues and dual in-state members pay only branch dues.

Please consider including a donation to the AAUW Fund with your dues. If you renew by e-mailed link, you will be given the option to include a donation at that time. If you pay your dues by check, the donation can be included. For example, if your dues are \$102 and you wish to donate \$10, write a check for \$112.

Many thanks in advance to all members who renew before the end of June. It really makes a difference in helping the branch to run smoothly and frees up more of our time and energy to focus on accomplishing branch goals and fulfilling AAUW's mission.

## Membership, continued

### Membership Participation

We were so pleased to see 36 participants at our February 25 Zoom program about San Ramon City planning updates, which was presented by Sabina Zafar, city council member and AAUW member. It was also great to see 43 participants at the March 11 Zoom program, “Understanding Alzheimer’s and Dementia,” which was presented by Dori Sproul, MA, Family Care Specialist. We look forward to seeing many of you at the April 8 Zoom program presenting the fascinating life and work of *San Francisco Chronicle* journalist, beekeeper, and author Meredith May. Thank you for your continued AAUW support and active participation!

### Member Spotlight



**Sara Lashanlo**

Education: California High School; California Polytechnic State University (with a semester abroad in Munich!)

Current and Previous Employment: Madorra Inc, a medical device startup company that is developing a noninvasive, nonhormonal therapeutic ultrasound at-home treatment for post-menopausal women who struggle with vulvo-vaginal atrophy.

Current Interests and Pastimes: Salsa dancing! Salsa and bachata dancing, as well as other types of social dancing, are passions of mine. The best part of social dancing is that the community exists almost everywhere on Earth. So no matter what country I’m in or if I speak the local language, I can bond with people over a salsa dance (in a

non-COVID world)! I also serve on San Ramon’s Innovation and Technology Advisory Committee—and I’m so excited to take this opportunity to make positive impacts in/with my community and learn about local governance! My current pastimes and interests are all connected to, in one way or another, climate action and social/political advancement and soaking up all the knowledge I can about STEM and politics.

Memorable Experiences/Adventures/Accomplishments: I’m so honored to have experienced some amazing things in life already—from getting lost in the Swiss Alps, to road-tripping to the Neuschwanstein Castle, to attending the world’s largest music festival (which has been acknowledged by the United Nations as a force for world peace and unity), to sitting down with congressional staffers on the Hill to talk about the future of climate legislation, to serving my community on an advisory committee and working toward societal progress. I’m thankful for the experiences and opportunities I’ve had and can’t wait for what’s to come 😊

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



**Program: Local Women in  
Encore Careers  
April 21, 5:00–6:30 PM  
On Zoom**

AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek  
presents a conversation with  
local woman leaders:  
Candace Andersen  
Sally Scholl  
Beverly Lane

Registration link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/local-women-in-encore-careers-tickets-145794434077>

## Public Policy

### News From National

On February 2, 2021, AAUW CA Public Policy Co-Chairs Sue Miller and Kathy Harper met via Zoom with AAUW Public Policy Director Kate Nielsen and her assistant Robin Lucas, along with state public policy chairs across the nation, to get updates on changes to the public policy landscape with the new administration and Congress. Here is a summary of what we thought members would like to know:

1. AAUW Public Policy team sent notice of our priorities for the new year
  - Letter to the President, focused on
    - Women's Economic Security
    - Education Access
  - Letter to 117<sup>th</sup> Congress
    - Passing the Paycheck Fairness Act
    - Passing the Equity in Education Act
2. Outline of AAUW's priorities for the Administration and Congress
  - Biden-Harris in the first two weeks: 41 Executive Covid measures, including student-debt relief and opening of schools
  - Anti-discrimination, including removing barriers, DACA relief, and a Task Force to reunite families
  - Protecting women's health at home and abroad, including access to abortions
  - Coming Legislation from Congress
    - Covid relief: \$1.9 Trillion package
      - Paid sick & family leave extended through September (14 weeks)
      - Increase minimum wage to \$15
      - Assistance to those at risk of losing jobs &/or their homes
      - \$3B to help women with food relief for their families
      - \$25B emergency fund for child care providers
    - Raise the Wage Act (\$15 by 2025)
    - FAMILY Act (emphasis on access to paid leave)
    - Paycheck Fairness Act: HR7
      - AAUW working on since 1997
      - Reintroduced 2/1
      - Strong bi-partisan support
      - Prohibits retaliation for discussing pay
      - Closes loopholes in Equal Pay Act
      - Bans using prior salary history in hiring decisions

There are a number of resources on both the AAUW CA website and the AAUW website where you can learn more about the issues AAUW supports. I encourage you to read these and learn more these important issues.

Cindy Alpert  
Public Policy

## Tech Trek



### Tech Trek Update

Just five of the nine 7<sup>th</sup>-grade girls nominated by their San Ramon middle school STEM teachers (at Gale Ranch and Windemere Ranch) submitted applications for the 2021 virtual Tech Trek camp. The other two middle schools in San Ramon did not submit nominations. After reviewing the applications received and interviewing (via Zoom) the girls, our readers and interview subcommittees agreed that the San Ramon branch should sponsor all five girls for Tech Trek camp. The next step is for the girls' parents to register their daughters for the camp.

Our Tech Trek campers will attend one of the three one-week virtual Tech Trek camps: June 21–25, July 12–16 or July 26–30. Each girl was asked to indicate in their application which week they prefer.

Virtual Tech Trek camp is still seeking adult volunteers to be present in the workshops and robotics core course sessions as coaches. Contact Marielle or Cordelia if you are interested.

Thank you to our readers and interviewers who played key roles in the selection process of our Tech Trek campers! Our readers subcommittee consisted of Angela Godin (chair), Renae Buckser, Marsha Froines, and Margo James. The interview subcommittee consisted of Judy Bracken (chair), Pam Bugbee, and Harvalee Grimm. We greatly appreciate your completing the AAUW-required training (readings on diversity, anti-bullying, etc. topics) to be a Tech Trek committee member and completing your tasks with excellence.

### Tips For Change Fundraiser

The totals are in for our annual Tips for Change fundraiser at Gianni's Italian Bistro held February 15, 2021, and we are thrilled with the results! We raised \$2,128 (with only curbside pickup) versus \$3,534 last year (with indoor dining and raffle baskets). Nearly all the money raised in this year's event was from tips and donations (donations made in lieu of ordering a meal). Thank you to all who contributed!

Next year's Tips for Change fundraiser benefiting Tech Trek will be on Monday, February 28, 2022 at Gianni's. We look forward to another successful event...hopefully in-person, indoors, and unmasked!

Marielle Boortz  
Tech Trek Co-Coordinator with Cordelia Hwang

## STEM

### Dr. Shirley Jackson

#### "The Ultimate Role Model for Women in Science"



On May 19, 2016, President Barack Obama awarded Dr. Jackson the National Medal of Science in recognition for her research achievements, achievements in science-rooted public policy, and for inspiring the next generation of STEM talent, the three fields in which she strived to make a difference.

In addition to receiving 55 honorary doctoral degrees, numerous awards, and leadership roles across academia, government, and scientific industries, Dr. Jackson holds a B.S. in Physics, and a Ph.D. in Theoretical Elementary Particle Physics from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). She is the first African American woman to receive a doctorate of any kind from that university!

Early in her career at Bell Labs, Dr. Jackson helped in the discoveries that led to the fax machine, touch tone phones, solar cells, fiber optic cables, caller ID, and call waiting. She taught physics for four years at Rutgers University in Maryland before moving to the role of Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission from 1995 to 1999. She then took on her current role as President of RPI at age 53, and has participated on various advisory boards including as Co-Chair of President Obama's Intelligence Advisory Board, the Advisory Council of the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, and leadership in the formation of the International Nuclear Regulators Association.

In spite of the challenges she faced as a woman and a woman of color in a male dominated arena, Dr. Jackson's career advanced to the highest echelons in the fields of science and education. She credits her parents for encouraging her interest and success in science. They emphasized the "value of hard work, being of service to others, and striving for excellence". She attended public schools in Washington D.C. and excelled in her subjects with the encouragement of her teachers.

When she got to MIT as an undergrad in 1964, she encountered some obstacles as one of only two African American women in her class. Her plan was to major in physics but when she sought advice from her professor,

the reply was, "Colored girls should learn a trade" in spite of the fact that she had the highest grades in the class and was proud of her African American heritage. Although discouraged, she saw that she had a choice. She thought, "I could give in to ignorance or persevere and pursue excellence. I chose the latter and made physics my 'trade.'"

Dr. Jackson received her B.S. in Physics and pursued her graduate studies at MIT in theoretical elementary particle physics. Inspired by civil rights leaders of the time like MLK, she co-founded the Black Students' Union and joined an educational opportunity task force. Through these efforts and recommendations, MIT began to actively recruit minority students for the first time, proving that, "talent and success in science and engineering is not limited to one race, gender, or story of origin."

Dr. Jackson was inspired and encouraged in her career and academic pursuits by several women who managed to balance groundbreaking careers while raising families and dealing with the issues of their work being undervalued by institutions and male counterparts. An exception to this was one of her mentors, MIT President Paul Gray who recognized and encouraged her leadership skills. Among her mentors and eventually her friends were Professor Millie Dresselhaus, Ph.D., the first tenured woman professor at MIT, often called "the queen of carbon science", and theoretical elementary particle physicist Mary K. Gaillard, Ph.D, admired by Dr. Jackson for her ability to focus on her advanced research while organizing worldwide conferences, and raising 3 children. Dr. Jackson is married to Morris A. Washington, a physics professor at RPI, and has one son.

When asked about what skills women should focus on and develop to become successful in their careers, Dr. Jackson replied, "Skills vary with the field, but certain qualities are universal among high-achieving women: tenacity, a focus on excellence, a stubborn unwillingness to be dissuaded from the work they most enjoy, and the empathy for others—that is at the heart of leadership." She added that she was not so much driven by ambition as the sense of service learned from (her) parents.

Dr. Jackson's career advice was particularly encouraging for recent women graduates in STEM fields. "...they should be prepared to encounter unconscious bias from people in authority" so it does not discourage them and "allow no one to rob their confidence." She continued, "...become so undeniably excellent that even the most chauvinistic of bosses or advisors cannot withstand their brilliance...and never ...give up, because the world needs their talents and their ideas."

Source: T-Mobile, "An Interview With Dr. Shirley Jackson, The Ultimate Role Model For Women In Science," *Forbes*, March 17, 2021: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tmobile/2021/03/17/an-interview-with-dr-shirley-jackson-the-ultimate-role-model-for-women-in-science/?sh=6a2c65f341db>

Chris Burchik, Co-President



## Fund



### Fund Luncheon Fellows Highlight

This is a continuing series of articles to highlight the amazing work of our AAUW American Fellows as presented during the October 2020 Webinar (<https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-fund-luncheons/>). By sharing the stories of these amazing women, we hope this will inspire you to donate generously to AAUW FUND.

#### How Can “YOU” Help?

Our San Ramon Branch is trying to raise an additional **\$2,500 by June of 2021.**

#### How to 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!**

### AAUW Fellow Tracy Quezada

Tracy Quezada is a “Community Action Grant” AAUW Fellow recipient. She is a documentary filmmaker and journalist, and she is currently working on her Masters in Journalism within the discipline of Communications at UC Berkeley.

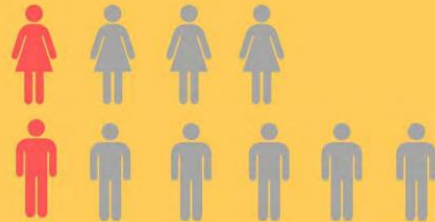
Tracy has produced and edited documentaries that address the school-to-prison pipeline, immigration, and race in America.

Her current documentary examines one of the most taboo issues of our time—child sexual abuse—an issue that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control has called a “public health crisis.” Her research investigates the fundamental systemic and structural issues that contribute to society’s failure to grapple with intergenerational sexual abuse.

To address this issue, Tracy has created a multimedia impact campaign and documentary film entitled *When You Were Young*. She and her team hope to distribute this program along with related curriculum to 500 universities within 3 years.



**1 out of 4 girls & 1 out of 6 boys  
are sexually abused before the  
age of 18**



To listen to Tracy’s actual presentation, simply click on the following link (<https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-fund-luncheons/>). She presented on October 10, 2020 and her presentation began at 1:10 in the webinar.

Respectfully,  
Pamela Bugbee and Elaine Graves  
Co-Vice President, FUND with Elaine Graves



# Communications

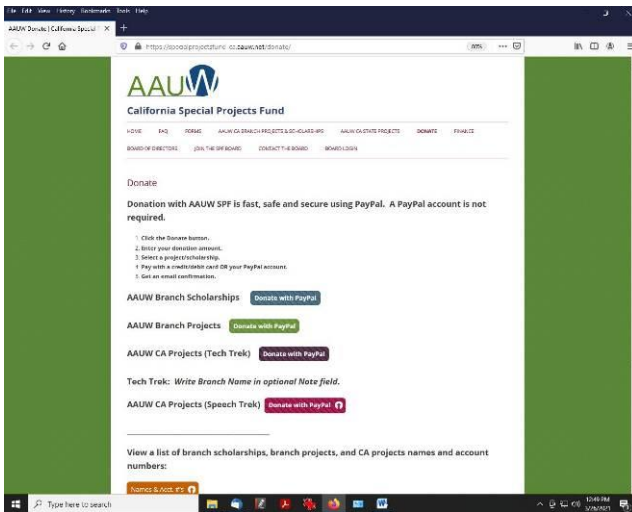
## AAUW CA Special Projects Fund Now Accepts Online Donations

We are pleased to announce that AAUW CA SPF has launched on online donation portal. The provider for this service is PayPal. The PayPal option for donors enables credit card donations to be directly deposited into our (SR AAUW) AAUW CA SPF account.

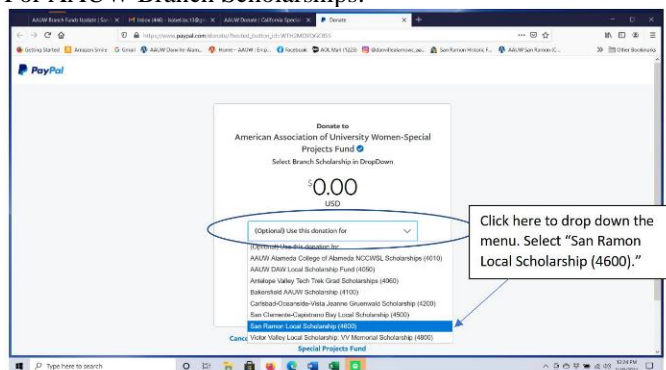
The PayPal option is easily accessed through the “donate” buttons on the new Special Projects Fund website <https://specialprojectsfund-ca.aauw.net/donate/>

Donors can designate the project or program allocation of their donations by utilizing the dropdown lists of projects and programs and simply clicking on the appropriate program or project.

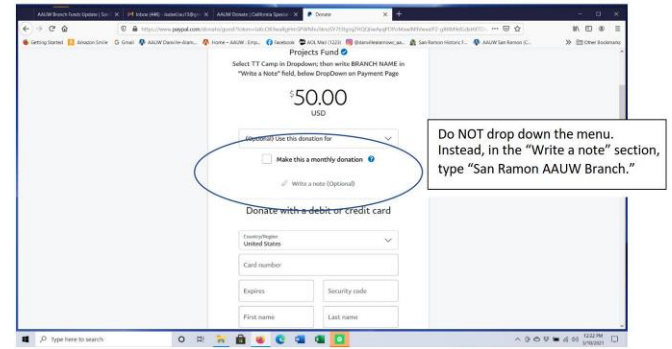
It is critical that the donor utilize the project/program designation function to ensure funds are correctly allocated. See below:



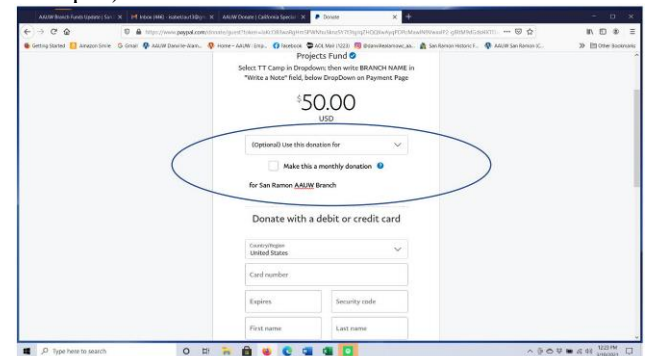
### For AAUW Branch Scholarships:



### For AAUW Projects (Tech Trek):



It should look like this. (The donation amount is just an example.)



## Making Powerful Allies: Virtual Lobby Day

I nervously waited for Assembly Member [Tim Grayson](#) (District 14) to join our virtual call. Never having lobbied before, I wasn't sure whether to be excited or intimidated. The [AAUW CA Public Policy](#) team had prepped 120+ volunteers well. Scripts, talking points, pep talks from star-power women—Senate Majority Leader Eloise Gomez Reyes; AM Cristina Garcia, head of the [California Legislature Women's Caucus](#); and our new Advocate [Kathy Van Osten](#). They said AAUW was well-respected in Sacramento. Let your pride shine through! But how would our messages be received?

Our March 24 call started out chattier than expected (AM Grayson is a politician after all). He was familiar with AAUW. It's extremely useful to have thoughtful constituents summarize bills and explain their importance, Grayson disclosed. AAUW CA will prioritize 30 bills for 2021 and we laid out arguments for the Top 3: AB92 Childcare Family Fees (which AAUW co-sponsors), SB62 Garment Worker Protection Act, and SB373 Consumer Debt: Economic Abuse. Chris Ritter (Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek), Denise Burien (Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette), and I gave convincing pitches in our 20-minute call. Grayson gave a thumbs up on all three, with the caveat that he will read the full text and noted that strange additions can hitchhike on the final versions. He requested AAUW keep his office informed as these bills pass milestones.

Virtual Lobby Day was a resounding success according to all the teams' feedback. It will be fun to see AAUW priorities move from hopes and dreams to the law of the land. Next year—hopefully back to Sacramento in person!



*Denise Burien (top right) explains an AAUW top priority bill to AM Tim Grayson and AAUW Virtual Lobby Day team members Kathleen Schaub (left) and Chris Ritter (lower right).*

## 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

## Interest Groups

### GAME NIGHT

#### First Saturday

Saturday, April 3; 7:30 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

Information about the Zoom call will be sent prior to the date.

Questions? Contact Lucy Weed



### LUNCH BUNCH

#### First Tuesday

Tuesday, April 6; 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, April 12; 1:00–3:00 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

We are reading *Amity and Prosperity: One Family and the Fracturing of America* by Eliza Griswold.

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, April 19; 7:00 PM

Via Zoom videoconference

Judy Bracken will review *Hidden Valley Road* by Robert Kolker.

Questions? Contact Cheri Ng



**Joy Perkins**  
Designing Smart Solutions for Busy People  
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## Interest Groups

### BRIDGE

#### Third Tuesday

Tuesday, April 20; 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



### FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF)

Friday, April 23; 7:30 PM

Mary Venkat is our Organizer. Mary will select the movie, which we watch separately on our own schedules. We'll meet to discuss it via Zoom on April 23.

If you would like to be included in our Zoom discussion, please let Chris White know. I hope you can join us!

If you have questions or wish to volunteer to be an Organizer during 2021, please contact Chris White



### TRAVEL GROUP

Travel Group is on hiatus until the fall, when we hope to resume our normal in-person group gatherings. By that time, hopefully everyone will have received their vaccinations and be comfortable meeting in person. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

Anne Hayden  
Renae Buckser



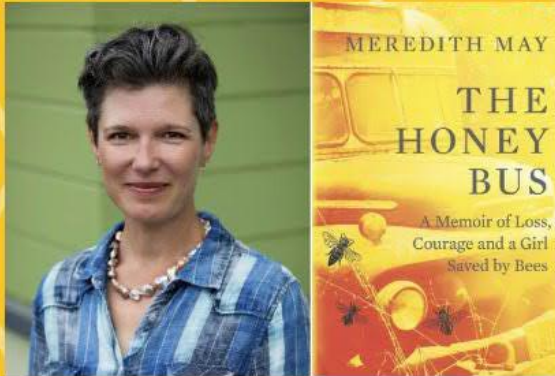
## April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 7:30 PM Game Night Lucy Weed
4	5	6 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Marsha Froines	7	8 7:00 PM Program: Meredith May Leslie Adams	9	10
11	12 1:00 PM Daytime Readers Margo James  7:00 PM Board meeting Chris Burchik	13	14	15 Newsletter deadline	16	17
18	19 7:00 PM Night Book Group Cheri Ng	20 7:00 PM Bridge Chris White	21	22	23 Friday Flicks Chris White	24 Shredding Event
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## Snippets

We NEED Snippets to help keep our lives interesting during COVID!

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.**



## April 8 at 7:00 PM via Zoom Meet Local Author Meredith May

Meredith May is “an award-winning journalist and fifth-generation beekeeper” who has written a fascinating memoir, *The Honey Bus*, which “reveals the life lessons she learned in her grandfather’s Big Sur bee yard that rescued her from a difficult childhood.”

Meredith, who currently lives in Carmel Valley, was a journalist for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and a former professor of journalism and podcasting at Mills College in Oakland. Prior to authoring *The Honey Bus*, she wrote *I, Who Did Not Die*, “the true story of an Iranian child soldier who risked his life to save an enemy during the Iran-Iraq War.”

Non-members wishing to join in may email us at [aauwsr@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsr@gmail.com) by April 6.

The quotations above are taken from Meredith May’s biography on her website, <https://meredithamay.net/bio/>