



THE VIEW

FROM SAN RAMON

Volume 39, Number 3

November 2022

Don't Stop Believin'

Update on Covid-19

Where is it? How do I protect myself? What's next?

Dr. Patrick Joseph, MD,
Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of California,
San Francisco, will share current information about Covid-19

Thursday, November 10
7:00 PM–8:00 PM

Via Zoom: Please RSVP to the Evite to receive the link



More info and details on page 4

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, or socioeconomic status.

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11:30AM Lunch Bunch Margo James	2	3	4	5 7:30 PM Game Night Lucy Weed
6 Change Those Clocks 	7	8 VOTE!	9	10 7:00 PM Program: Update on Covid-19 Via Zoom	11 Veterans Day	12 9:00 AM Local Walking Group Lois Kamoroff
		10 AM–12 noon Fund Virtual Event				
13	14 1:00 PM Daytime Readers Margo James	15 7:00 PM Bridge Chris White	16	17	18 7:30 PM Fourth Friday Flicks Chris White	19
	7:00 PM Board Meeting via Zoom	Newsletter Deadline			(Note Special Date!)	
20	21 7:00 PM Night Book Group Cheri Ng	22	23	24 Thanksgiving 	25	26
27	28	29 Giving Tuesday	30			

Snippets

If you have a Snippet item (family events, career changes, etc.) that you would like to share with branch members, please contact Carol Lombardi.

Save the Dates

Sunday, December 11: Fun Holiday Social at Bollinger Hills Cabana
February 6, 2023: Tech Trek Fundraiser at Gianni's Italian Bistro

Watch for more information about our 2022–2023 events coming in future newsletters.

Co-President's Pen



Vote, Volunteer, and Donate

A few days after you receive this email, our nation will once more go to the polls. We vote because we care about the issues, our country, and each other. Kudos to all who vote!

And kudos to everyone who volunteers.

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

The author of this statement is unknown, yet they voiced a very important sentiment. We are the kind of community—and the kind of branch—that we are because of people who show up out of the goodness of their hearts.

Our branch members want to volunteer. In our spring survey, here's what you said about how you would like to help AAUW in 2022–2023:

- 47% would like to help with an event or special project
- 26% would like to volunteer in a board or leadership position
- 17% would like to join a team or committee
- 16% would like to raise funds or solicit auction items

At our September Membership Meeting, 24 people (22 members and 2 guests) accepted “snackable” volunteer jobs. These jobs are limited in scope but critical to the success of projects including Tech Trek, Scholarships, Fund, and Branch Operations. Some folks hold additional volunteer roles (thank you!) while others are signing up for the first time.

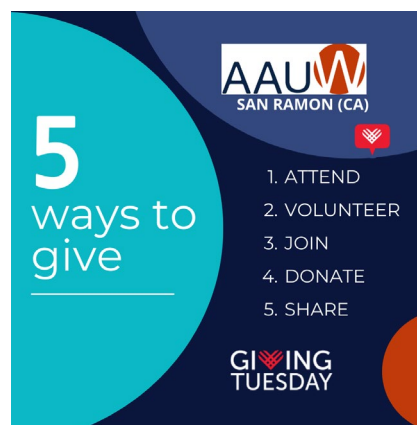
Here are our “snackable” volunteers. Please give them a (virtual) hand! Arila Barnes, JoAnne Barron, Fran Bartholomew, Judy Bracken, Sandy Budde, Chris Burchik, Andree Chagnon, Janice Colby, Cindy Ferrin, Julie Gin, Lois Kamoroff, Sara Lashanlo, Vineetha Nair, Joy Perkins, Sindhura Putumbaka, Purvi Rawal, Tanishi Rawal, Kathleen Schaub, Rebecca Said, Kathy Senti, Susan Volsky, Lucy Weed, Chris White, and Janet Williams

In addition to these volunteers, please salute the talented board members and interest group leaders whose names appear at the end of each newsletter.

Fall is the giving season—don't forget about your favorite AAUW projects. You will soon receive a letter and donation flyer about our annual Fall Fundraising Campaign. Please read it, share with your friends and neighbors, and remember AAUW on Giving Tuesday, November 29.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. —Margaret Mead

Blessings to all!
Kathleen Schaub
Co-President with Janice Colby



Happy November Birthdays!

Carolyn Fishel
Harry Sachs
Carol Callaway
Pauline Nolte
Maryam Fields
Linda Louie
Pamela Justin
Sabina Zafar

Program



UPDATES ON COVID-19 Dr. Patrick Joseph, MD

**Thursday, November 10
7:00 PM–8:00 PM via Zoom**

Please respond to the Evite to receive the Zoom link

Our November program will be an update on Covid-19 presented by Dr. Patrick Joseph, MD, who will speak about what's happening with the virus, how to stay protected, and what is known about the variants. The meeting will be via Zoom.

Dr. Joseph did his specialty training in Infectious Diseases and Clinical Pathology at the University of California, San Francisco. For the past 35 years, he has been actively involved with numerous organizations studying infectious diseases. He has published over 70 articles in medical literature, given countless lectures, and served on several national and international committees. He has been the recipient of multiple awards and honorary fellowships, including the IDSA Citation Award for Lifetime Achievement in Infectious Diseases.

Look for more information about our upcoming events in future newsletters.

Thank you for your support!

Cindy Alpert & Karen Rice
Co-VPs Program

**SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, December 11
1:00 PM–3:00 PM**

Our Fun Holiday Social will be held at the Bollinger Hills Community Cabana. More details will be shared in the December newsletter!

Fund



AAUW 2022 California Fund Virtual Event Saturday, November 12 10:00 AM–12 noon

The last of these informative and inspiring annual Fund events is yet to come. Don't miss the opportunity to hear from a few of the 39 accomplished California fellow and grant recipients who will share nuggets of their fascinating studies at the final Fall AAUW Fund virtual events. See what and who your AAUW Fund dollars support. You can still sign up for this session (if you have not already done so) to learn about sustainable environments, global migration, refugee studies, and other important topics.

LINK TO REGISTER:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-2022-fund-events>

Give Now: Create the World You Want to Live In

Please give to your favorite AAUW projects
when you receive our branch's
Fall Fundraising letter in the mail



2019–2020 AAUW Fellow Kimberly Jung

Tech Trek



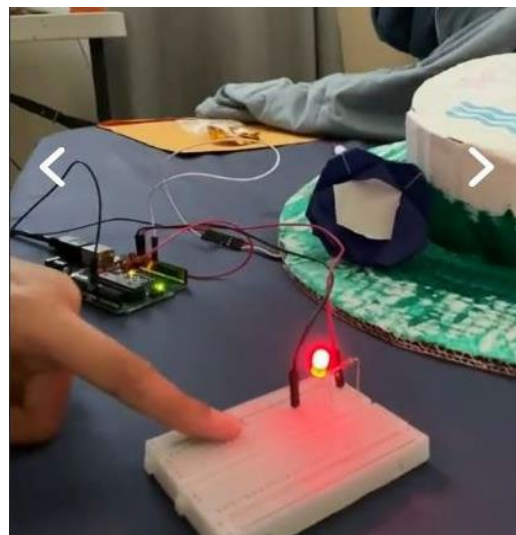
2022 Wrap-Up and 2023 Plans

The Tech Trek 2022 Camp year is completed. It was a year of ever-changing Covid-19 presence and also dedication and resilience on the part of many AAUW dedicated volunteers. One camper selected for residential camp was turned away at registration because she tested positive for Covid-19. She was very disappointed, but appreciative of the sponsorship, certificate of selection, and souvenir bear from the branch. All the eight sponsored 2022 Tech Trek campers have received their certificates and souvenir bears from the branch.

We are in the early planning stage for 2023 Camps. The CA Tech Trek committee has said that there will be both residential and virtual camps in Summer 2023. However, the number of residential campers that can be accommodated is uncertain. We hope that we will be able to continue sending our traditional six residential campers. The initial meeting of the Tech Trek Branch Peer group (coordinators) will be in mid-November, and more information about the upcoming Tech Trek program is anticipated then. School contact to begin camper selection and related activities will probably get underway in early 2023 (calendar year).

The vast majority of the 2021–2022 Branch Tech Trek committee members intend to continue next year. The branch's success in selecting and sponsoring deserving young women for the STEM camp experience is only possible because of these members' tremendous ongoing dedication and support. Stella and I look forward to working with the additional members who volunteered at the September Membership Meeting.

It is anticipated that fees will increase for the 2023 camps, so sufficient financial support by members and friends is still so important. Please see the co-presidents' letter (coming soon via snail mail) for details on how to help the branch projects. Nurturing STEM curiosity in female middle schoolers is so important for their future and for the future of the world.



Tech Trek project: Automated hat



Tech Trek project: Stay-clean purse

SAVE THE DATE Tech Trek's major fundraiser, "Tips for Change," is February 6, 2023, at Gianni's Italian Bistro. Join us. And thank you to all who signed up to be wait-staff and "earn" our tips. It will be a lot of fun!

Cordelia Hwang
Tech Trek Co-coordinator
with Stella Hadjimarkos

Thank you
to all the eagle-eyed volunteers
who reviewed this newsletter!

Cindy Ferrin
Lois Kamoroff
Joy Perkins

Rebecca Said
Lucy Weed
Chris White

—Ed.

Membership



Membership Matters

Membership Update

Our branch remains strong with a total of 97 members, including Vineetha Nair and Sindhura Putumbaka (who joined after the September brunch) and our five Renaissance Scholars—student affiliates: Karla Padilla Gonzalez, Felecia Hubbard, Celena Johnson, Michelle May, and Amy Nguyen.

Prospective Member Guests and the Shape the Future Discount

This fiscal year feels to be one of renewal as we greet and welcome each other in person. As we strengthen our bonds of friendship, let us also reach out to invite like-minded people to join our San Ramon branch. Remember that prospective member guests are always welcome at our events, programs, and interest group gatherings. When you invite them, let us know so we can follow up with an invitation to join. Guests are offered the Shape the Future discount: 50% off national dues for one year—a \$33.50 savings.

Corresponding Secretary Role

The duties of Corresponding Secretary have been absorbed by the membership team. Please let Margo James know when our branch can lend support to members during the many changes of life. Margo will send cards of condolence, encouragement, farewell, etc. at your request.

New Member Spotlights



Vineetha Nair

Vineetha Nair was born in the coastal town of Kannur in the state of Kerala in India. Her father's career in the Indian Air Force resulted in her living in various parts of India, including New Delhi and Bangalore. She lived briefly in Auckland, New Zealand before moving to the US 20 years ago. She and her husband, Abhishek, are the parents of two sons.

Vineetha received her degree in Civil Engineering from TKM College of Engineering in Kerala. While in India, she worked for multiple NGOs, including Catholic Relief Services, managing community building and watershed projects.

Vineetha's favorite pastime is being at the library. She is currently enrolled in the Library Technology Program at Diablo Valley College (DVC) and volunteers at the San Ramon (SR) Library Foundation bookstore, as an aide at the SR library, and as a student worker at the DVC SR campus library. Vineetha also enjoys cooking, music, and movies.



Sindhura Putumbaka

Sindhura Putumbaka was born in Tenali, India. She and her husband, Srinivasa, have two children. Their daughter, Sahana, is one of our Tech Trek 2022 campers. You may have had the opportunity to meet them at the September brunch.

Sindhura has a degree in Electronics and Instrumentation from Easwari Engineering College in India. She is currently a software engineer for Shutterstock Inc.

Sindhura enjoys traveling, cooking, and exploring new restaurants. She especially remembers two trips with her family to Hawaii and Hyderabad, India. In India, they visited an old-age orphanage (which provides housing and food for elders who lack family support) and donated to help with daily lunches and medicines. It remains a special event in her life—thinking of others in need.

Happy Thanksgiving from the Membership Team
Betsy, Harvalce, & Margo

★★ Happy 40th Anniversary ★★

Public Policy

AAUW San Ramon: The Early Years



By Chris Lewis

Staff Writer

Library gathers support

SAN RAMON — Supporters of a new library are counting on every man, woman and child who lives or works in the city to donate \$10 toward the goal of collecting \$20,000 books. So far, the supporters are \$7,000 closer to their mark.

The county has agreed to staff and stock the library, but can spend only \$20,000 this year. At about \$10 a book, the funds will buy only 2,000 books for opening day in December. But the San Ramon Library Foundation said 20,000 books are needed on opening day to serve the San Ramon community.

About 100 people — ranging from service club leaders and city officials to developers and business people — packed the City Hall meeting chambers Thursday to help kick off the book drive.

"It was a great turnout — considering Bill Cosby was on. I think people want a library," said Diane Schiener, co-chairman of the book drive.

The drive is sponsored by the San Ramon Library Foundation and the San Ramon branch of the Association of University Women.

Library Foundation officials said that principals and teachers at all San Ramon schools will be encouraging parents to donate \$10 per student, which is about the average cost of a library book, Schiener said.

During the ceremony, a streamer of individuals and service club leaders presented books, cash donations and plaques.

Schiener's husband, Don, a dentist, donated \$200 — \$40 for each of his employees — plus \$100 from every dentist in his building.

Ron Galt, president of the San

Ramon Soccer Club, donated a couple of books to start a collection of instruction books for soccer coaches.

Contributions of \$100 were presented by Sandy LaVidale, Contra Costa County Supervisor Robert Schroder, attorney Michael Sullivan, San Ramon City Manager Jim Hollman, and representatives from the Contra Costa Business and Professional Women.

Smaller contributions came from San Ramon Planning Director Richard Rotzheim and Paul Ryan, manager of the Dublin San

Ramon Services District.

Joe Conolly, a board member of the services district, said he hoped also will make donations. The district's International of San Ramon proudest source of its proceeds from its yearly dance. The group already donated \$20,000 toward the planning of the library.

The Library Foundation honored developers and public officials who have helped put the library on a fast track the past year.

Shapel Industries of Northern California and Etnico Properties

have donated \$40,000 toward the library.

Paul Smith, chairman of Pacific RIM Development Corp., donated the library site and offered to build the 17,500-square-foot facility at his cost.

The building, to be located on Bollinger Canyon Road, is expected to be completed in December.

The county Board of Supervisors has agreed to staff and stock the library at a cost of about \$275,000 a year. The San Ramon City Council recently hired an architect for the library.



Update on Legislative Initiatives from AAUW California

2021–2022 Legislative Session Closes with Big Wins for AAUW California

At the stroke of midnight on September 30, 2022, the 2021–2022 legislative session officially came to a close as it marked the Governor's deadline for signing or vetoing bills. The AAUW California Public Policy committee is pleased to announce that we achieved a 70% success rate on the bills on our legislative agenda, and 25 of our 36 bills are now law, including seven of our eight top priority bills. The following is a brief synopsis, by each pillar of our Public Policy Priorities:

Economic Security for All Women

Eight of our bills were signed by the Governor, one was vetoed, and one died in the legislature. The most significant bill under this pillar was AB (Assembly Bill) 92, which we co-sponsored. AB 92 was introduced in 2020, and became a two-year bill, which is why it remained on this year's agenda. This bill originally sought a one-year waiver of supplemental child-care fees for low-income families, with a request for a sliding scale to be applied thereafter. In his 2021 budget, Governor Newsom included \$120 million for two-years' worth of waivers. The bill was then amended to request an additional year of waivers through October 2024, with a sliding scale to then be implemented. Unfortunately, the amended bill was vetoed; however, we are still proud of the work we did to get those two years of waivers in the budget, so we still consider it a win!

Equal Access to Quality Public Education for All Students

Six of these bills were signed by the Governor, one was vetoed, one was approved by the legislature (no signature required) and two died in the legislature. Of particular note under this pillar are three of our top priority bills: AB 1968, which requires campuses to develop and post uniform guidelines for reporting sexual assault; AB 2881 which provides additional support for college students with dependent children; and AJR 23 (Assembly Joint Resolution), a Title IX 50th Anniversary Proclamation.

Our branch has been very active in community projects from the start. One of our first major projects was supporting the San Ramon Library. After San Ramon incorporated as a city (1983), a group of enthusiastic, dedicated women thought it was time to build a library in San Ramon. They formed a group, worked with the city and county to get approval, raised over \$300,000, and succeeded in getting the library built. The library was opened in 1987, with many books on the shelves thanks to the fundraising efforts of this group. Their efforts merited numerous awards and recognitions.

Did you know? The San Ramon Library has the highest circulation of all the Contra Costa libraries. Many of our members continue to support it through the San Ramon Library Foundation, which was formed by members of our branch. It is wonderful to see how their teamwork and dedication continues to shine in San Ramon.

We will feature recaps of the past 40 years in our monthly newsletter and continue celebrating this accomplishment throughout the year.

Congratulations to us!

LUNCH BUNCH is back in person!
See page 9 for details.

continued on next page

Public Policy *continued*

Social and Racial Justice for All Members of Society

Eight of these bills were signed by the Governor, one was vetoed, one was incorporated by the Governor into an Executive Order, one was approved by and two died in the legislature. We saw success on all four of our top priority bills in this area: AB 1666, which provides protection for those from other states seeking abortions in California, as well as for those providing services here, from the enforcement of a related civil judgment from their home state; SB (Senate Bill) 523, which requires insurance coverage for over-the-counter contraceptive products; SB 1375, which allows certified nurse-practitioners to perform some early-term abortions; and SCA (Senate Constitutional Amendment) 10. SCA 10 was introduced in the Senate as a measure to place a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to enshrine in the California constitution the right to an abortion and to contraception. When this measure passed in the Senate, it became Proposition 1.

Source: Kathi Harper, Board to Board/Public Policy Updates, October 8, 2022, [here](#)

Local Walking Group



On a beautiful October morning, three of us—Chris Burchik, Susan Volsky, and Lois Kamoroff—went on our usual walk around Annabelle Lake. Soon after we began our walk, we met a badly injured woman who was bent over and bleeding from two gashes on her face. She was very confused and hard to understand, but we stopped the bleeding and helped her to a safer place to rest. 911 was called. We helped her notify a friend. She was taken to San Ramon hospital; we hope she has recovered fully. What an adventure for AAUW members to spring into action and become angels of mercy during someone's time of need. We continued our walk twice around the lake, proud of our ability to help. Hope to see you on our next less-exciting walk.

Lois Kamoroff and Andree Chagnon

Local Scholarship



Update on Scholarship Recipient

CSUEB Renaissance Scholar

Lianne Rivera-Cordero (2018 recipient) has completed the following: Master's in Higher Education for Counseling and Student Affairs at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

She is currently working at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo with the Cal Works Program and with Foster Youth.



Congratulations, Lianne!

Mountain Mike's Fundraiser Results

Thank you to our AAUW members, family, neighbors, friends, and co-workers who participated in the Mountain Mike Pizza Fundraiser for Local Scholarship on October 12. We are really pleased with the support from everyone! We received a check for \$207, which was 30 percent of the sales for the day.

Local Scholarship Committee: Julie Gin, Susan Walker-Christensen, and Loranne Weir



Interest Groups

LUNCH BUNCH

First Tuesday

Tuesday, November 1; 11:30 AM

LUNCH BUNCH is back in person!

Please put this date on your calendar if you are interested in meeting for a friendly lunch with fellow members. We will talk about anything and everything while dining on delicious food, and we always get separate checks.

On November 1 we will meet at Dos Coyotes Border Café, 3191 Crow Canyon Place San Ramon (in the Sprouts/Ace Hardware Shopping Center).

To RSVP—or if you would like to be put on the notification list—please contact:

Margo James

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### GAME NIGHT

#### First Saturday

Saturday, November 5; 7:30 PM

#### Via Zoom videoconference

Join us for a fun evening! Link to the Zoom call will be sent prior to November 5.

Questions? Contact Lucy Weed

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LOCAL WALKING GROUP

Second Saturday

Saturday, November 12; 9:00 AM

We'll walk around the lake at Bishop Ranch. The walkway is gravel and paved in some areas and an easy flat terrain. Parking should be easy at the Target parking lot. Everyone is welcome, including your dogs!

RSVP if you would like to join us. Contact:

Andree Chagnon

Lois Kamoroff

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### DAYTIME READERS

#### Second Monday

Monday, November 14; 1:00–3:00 PM

#### Via Zoom videoconference

The Daytime Book Group will meet via Zoom to discuss what books we'll read in 2022–2023.

For **December 12** we will read the Read Contra Costa book, *Portrait of a Thief* by Grace D. Li. For more information and activities centered around this book, go to <https://ccclib.org/read-contra-costa/>

If you have questions, contact

Margo James

## Interest Groups

### TUESDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

#### Second Tuesday

Tuesday, November 15; 7–9:00 PM or so

#### Virtual and/or In Person

Hostess: TBD

#### RSVP

We will play bridge via Zoom/teleconference and BridgeBase and/or in person at someone's home. If you would like play, please RSVP and let me know:

1. if you are interested in playing or not, and
2. whether you want virtual or in person.

Location: TBD

Questions? Contact Chris White

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FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF)

Friday, November 18; 7:30 PM **Special Date**

Via Zoom videoconference

Mary Venkat will be the Organizer. Mary has chosen *The Unknown Saint*, set in Morocco, in Arabic with English subtitles: "After a stint behind bars, a thief tries to recover a bag of money that he buried, only to find that his hiding spot is now a shrine. *The Unknown Saint* is a droll and quirky satire on religious superstitions." Available to stream on Netflix and Roku. Watch on your own during the month and then join us for a discussion on Friday, November 18. It is always fun, interesting, and sometimes educational! Let Chris White know if you wish to receive a Zoom link for the above event.

Questions? Contact Chris White

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### THE NIGHT BOOK GROUP

#### Third Monday

Monday, November 21; 7:00 PM

#### Via Zoom videoconference

Chris White will review *Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah.

Questions? Contact Cheri Ng

## 2022–2023 Board

### CO-PRESIDENTS

Janice Colby  
Kathleen Schaub

### IMMEDIATE PAST CO-PRESIDENTS

Janice Colby  
Kathleen Schaub

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, PROGRAM

Cindy Alpert  
Karen Rice

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, MEMBERSHIP

Harvalee Grimm  
Betsy Hoffmann  
Margo James

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, THE FUND OPEN

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, SCHOLARSHIP

Julie Gin  
Susan Walker-Christensen  
Loranne Weir

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, FINANCE

Claire Mailhiot  
Patty Nobles

### 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: [cbc-ibc-ca.aauw.org](http://cbc-ibc-ca.aauw.org)

### **Branch mailing address:**

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

### **Branch email address:**

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

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

**Instagram:** @sanramonaauw

## Appointed Officers

### ART & WIND FESTIVAL

Janet Williams

### COMMUNICATION

Isabel Lau

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

*Duties have been assumed by Membership*

### HOSPITALITY/FELLOWSHIP

Andree Chagnon

### NEWSLETTER

Carol Lombardi

### PUBLIC POLICY

Catherine Lewis

### TECH TREK

Stella Hadjimarkos  
Cordelia Hwang