



**THE VIEW**

**FROM SAN RAMON**

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Volume 39, Number 5

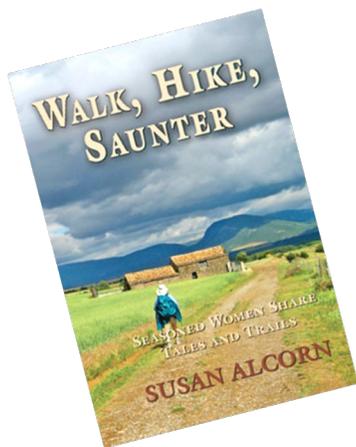
January 2023

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## **“Take Me Higher” Meet Susan Alcorn**

**Local Author, Avid Hiker, and Outdoor Enthusiast  
Get Inspired to Walk, Hike, or Saunter**

**January 19, 7:00 PM**



**Via Zoom**

**Look for the Evite  
Please RSVP**



**See page 4 for more 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, or socioeconomic status.

## JANUARY, 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2	3	4	5	6	7 7:30 PM Game Night Lucy Weed
8	9 1:00 PM Daytime Readers Margo James	10	11	12	13	14 9 AM Local Walking Group Lois Kamoroff
	7:00 PM Board Meeting via Zoom					
15 Newsletter deadline	16 7:00 PM Night Book Group Cheri Ng	17 7:00 PM Bridge Chris White	18	19 7:00 PM Program Author Susan Alcorn Via Zoom <i>See page 4</i>	20	21
	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>					
22 Lunar New Year	23	24	25	26	27 Fourth Friday Flicks Chris White	28
29	30	31				

### Snippets

Michelle May, one of our current Renaissance Scholars recipients, has been dealing with some health issues since September and is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatments. Please keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers. If you would like any additional information, contact Susan Walker-Christensen by phone or email.

Did you know? Your Membership Team is now acting as Corresponding Secretary. If you have information about any member that could use a cheerful note, a get-well card, bereavement note, congratulations, etc., please send an email or text to Margo James.

Thank you to Lucy Weed, stalwart proofreader!

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

February 6: Gianni's Tips for Change Fundraiser for Tech Trek  
 April 22: Fund Tea and Vote on Dues Increase

## Co-President's Pen



### Happy 2023 to Everyone!

We hope that everyone managed to stay healthy throughout the holidays and enjoy time with family and friends. We start the new year with the expectation of more great programs and activities! Our branch has been growing, and we have several new members who bring new energy to our group.

**Let's Talk About Money.** In 2023, the board needs to address our budget and expenditures. For the past 2 years, we have had to use reserves to cover some expenses because we have not had enough revenue coming into the branch to handle expenses. As part of the remedy, the board voted in November to propose to the membership a small increase in branch dues starting next fiscal year.

Branch revenue was raised at the San Ramon Art and Wind Festival Ice Cream Sale, and it has been a wonderful way to raise operations funds in just two days. However, with the pandemic, we lost that revenue source and used reserve funds to make up the shortfall. Even with our resumed participation in the festival, the income isn't enough. Our branch is frugal when it comes to spending. We have enough money for basic operations, but events cost more because expenses for venues and guests have increased. Our programs introduce our branch to new people which, in turn, help us grow.

**How Our Dues Are Allotted.** Right now, your total annual dues are \$107. AAUW National gets \$67, AAUW California receives \$20, and our branch receives \$20. Neither National nor AAUW state offices intend to raise dues next year. Currently, we have one of the lowest branch dues in the nation. We have not raised dues for our branch in many years.

**Now We Need Your Input.** The proposed increase is \$8 per year, increasing your total annual dues to \$115 with \$28 going to our branch. While this amount doesn't fully cover the difference between our income and what we spend annually, it does reduce how much we must use from reserves.

Members will vote on the proposal to raise dues at the Fund Tea on April 22. Between now and then, we invite you to please come to the board meetings to let us know what you think of the proposed dues increase. Board meetings are the first Monday via Zoom and begin at 7:00 PM. We very much want your questions and input.

To receive a Zoom link to the board meeting, simply contact Kathleen or me. Alternatively, we are both available to discuss this important decision with you individually.

Please be an active participant in this discussion. This decision doesn't come lightly. We want to ensure that all members have a voice in the decision.

We both wish you and your loved ones a healthy and joyous 2023.

Janice Colby  
Co-President with  
Kathleen Schaub

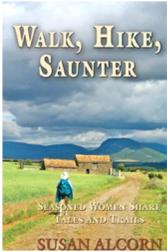


### Happy January Birthdays!

**Arlene Chang**  
**Arla Barnes**  
**Lynn Davies**  
**Stella Hadjimarkos**  
**Nancy Vandell**

## Program

### Get Movin' in the New Year!



### Meet Susan Alcorn Local Author and International Hiker

**7:00 PM, January 19 Via Zoom**  
**Look for the Evite and Please Respond**

Zoom in on Thursday, January 19 with our guest speaker and author, Susan Alcorn, who hopes to encourage and inspire you to get outdoors and walk, hike, or saunter.

Susan will talk about how she became a long-distance hiker in her forties and how that led to writing about her hiking and traveling adventures throughout the world. Becoming a more serious hiker also brought her into the hiking community, where she learned about, and was inspired by, others to go farther afield.

Susan's most recent book, *Walk, Hike, Saunter: Seasoned Women Hikers Share Tales and Trails*, is based on interviews that she conducted with 32 women hikers, all 45 and older. Susan will discuss why she decided to write this book, how and why she selected the women, and how her writing process works.

Though Susan loves hiking in far-flung places, she also feels extremely lucky to live in the Bay Area, with our thousands of miles of trails in our city, regional, state, and national parks. She loves exploring new trails, so—with her husband, Ralph, and a few friends—she is currently working on two new challenges: circumnavigating the Bay Area Ridge Trail and walking every street in Alameda (it's flat and easy to get to!). Bottom line, there are paths and trails suitable for people of all ages, abilities, and interests everywhere we look and, with our exceptional climate, we can enjoy many of them year round!

You can also check out Susan's other books on her website at [susandalcorn.com](http://susandalcorn.com)

**Look for an Evite and please respond so we get an accurate count of people.** Thanks!

Cindy Alpert & Karen Rice  
Co-VPs Program

## Tech Trek



### 2023 Plans: 8 Campers!

Annually, our Branch of AAUW sends young women from the four San Ramon middle schools to Tech Trek—a weeklong Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (“STEM”) summer camp. This year we want to send six seventh-grade girls to Tech Trek camp, to be held in-person at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California. We also want to send two girls to a virtual camp. According to the draft schedule, the Sonoma camp will take place the week of June 18–24 for a fee of \$1,000 per camper. The virtual camp will take place the week of July 23–28 for a fee of \$500 per camper.

We need your support to accomplish our goal of sending 8 girls to camp. We thank the members who made generous contributions already. We are still accepting donations!

### Save the Date:

**Gianni's Fundraiser February 6**  
**Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter**

You and your family and friends can enjoy a delectable dinner from the finest Italian restaurant in San Ramon on Monday, February 6 when at Gianni's Italian Bistro hosts a “Tips for Change” event to support our organization by generously donating 10% of the evening's proceeds plus all the tips. (The tips are earned by some fine volunteers from our branch.) Please, all of you, mark your calendars for February 6 and tell your friends.

This is the most fun evening our members enjoy every year! Don't miss out!

### To Donate by Check

If you can't make it for either dine-in or takeout that evening but would like to contribute to our fundraiser, here's some info: To donate by check, make it payable to “AAUW CA SPF” with “Tech Trek-San Ramon” in the memo line and mail it to  
AAUW San Ramon  
P.O. Box 336  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
AAUW CA SPF (AAUW California Special Projects Fund) is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt corporation.

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## Thank You, Tech Trek Volunteers!

Cordelia and I thank our returning Tech Trek committee members: Arila Barnes, Chris Burchik, Harvalee Grimm, Margo James, Karen Rice, Rebeca Said, Kathleen Schaub, Nancy Vandell, and Lucy Weed. We also welcome our new members Judy Bracken, Andree Chagnon, Lois Kamoroff, Julie Plaisance, Sindhura Putumbaka, Kathy Senti, and Janet Williams. These lists include members of all our subcommittees: School Liaisons, Readers, Interviewers, and Waiters/Runners.

Finally I thank my Co-Chair Cordelia for holding down the fort while I was on an extended vacation to my home country, Greece.

Hope to see many of you at Gianni's on February 6. Let's make this the most successful fundraiser yet!

Happy New Year everybody!

Stella Hadjimarkos, Tech Trek Co-Chair  
with Cordelia Hwang

## Marsha Froines Memorial



Our AAUW San Ramon Branch respectfully honors our friend Marsha Froines with a memorial donation to be shared by Tech Trek and Scholarship. Both projects were close to her heart. Marsha gave unselfishly in many ways to them and to Renaissance Scholars.

Members who would like to make personal donations can direct them as follows:

Payable to: AAUW San Ramon  
Designate: Scholarship—Marsha Froines OR  
Tech Trek—Marsha Froines  
Mail to: AAUW San Ramon, P.O. Box 336,  
San Ramon, CA 94583

## Membership



## Membership Matters

### Happy New Year from Your Membership Team!

We look forward to sharing our branch's good works with you in 2023. We are glad to see so many members participating in the Special Interest Groups (SIG) and monthly Program events. Suffice to say that we especially enjoy times when we can visit face-to-face and also appreciate the Internet for allowing us to continue meeting via Zoom.

### New Members

We welcome **Michelle Wong Ritenour** and **Purvi Rawal**. They both attended the holiday event on December 11. We were excited to meet and acquaint them with our activities and projects. You will find their contact information in the latest directory, which was sent to your email posted on our branch website under the password-protected section "Members Only."

### Prospective Member Guests and Shape The Future Discount

We look forward to seeing you at the virtual program on January 19 (details on page 4). Guests are welcome! If you know someone who is interested in learning about and potentially joining our branch, please share their contact information with the membership team. We will invite them to the next event(s). Please remember that we are able to extend the Shape The Future discount to new members who join at or soon after attending events. The discount is 50% off the national dues for one year—a \$33.50 savings.

### 50-year Honorees

If you have been a member of AAUW without hiatus since 1973 or before, please contact us. We would like to celebrate this 50-year milestone with you.

*continued next page*

## New Member Spotlight

Michelle Wong Ritenour



Michelle Wong Ritenour was born in Berkeley, California. She grew up in Concord and lived throughout the Bay Area before moving to San Ramon. Michelle and her husband, Dave, have two daughters.

Michelle holds a degree in Psychology and Education from UCLA and a Masters in Education and teaching credential from UC Berkeley. She taught elementary school in both Hayward and San Ramon. Now, with a Masters in Counseling Psychology from John F. Kennedy (JFK) University, Michelle is in private practice as a marriage and family therapist. Her primary focus is teens and young adults with anxiety.

Michelle enjoys going to the gym, practicing yoga, reading, trying new restaurants, working puzzles, and traveling. Her family takes regular trips to Hawaii and Disneyland. Most recently, they visited New York City and took a cruise to Bermuda.

Your Membership Team  
Harvalee Grimm, Betsy Hoffmann and Margo James



## Public Policy



### November 8th Was a Good Day for Women!

The election is finally over—and overall, AAUW members can be pretty happy with the results. Here are a few highlights:

- One woman was added to each house of Congress: the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, bringing the numbers to 124 (H) and 25 (S).
- Of the total of 149, 54 are women of color.
- With Nancy Pelosi stepping down as Speaker of the House, we lost the most powerful woman's voice in government, but still have a woman on the minority leadership team, Minority Whip Katherine Clark.
- Governors of 12 states are now women.
- 23% of all mayors across the nation are women, including our brand new and first woman mayor of Los Angeles, Karen Bass.
- 32 women won seats in the California Legislature (total confirmed 44, 3 pending)
- All executive positions in California except Governor are filled by women, including Secretary of State, Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, and Controller.
- Proposition 1 prevailed and women's right to control their own reproductive choices is now enshrined in our [California state] constitution.

The state Public Policy Committee thanks each and every AAUW California member who voted, who assisted in [the AAUW CA] Voter Education (VE) campaign by spreading our messages on social media, who took the pledge to vote for Prop 1 (we had 437 sign up!), and who worked within their branches to do their own VE events.

**Next challenge:** Let's add California to that list of states with a woman governor! Together we can—and will—change the world!

Source: Kathleen Harper, Board to Board/Public Policy, December 5, 2022, [LINK](#)

## Local Scholarship



### Update: Renaissance Scholar Celena Johnson Graduates

One of our current scholarship recipients, Celena Johnson, officially graduated this semester from CSUEB with a major in Public Health. She has applied to several graduate programs to obtain a RN and a Masters in Nursing. She has promised to let us know as soon as she can about an acceptance! I am confident that this talented young woman will hear the good news soon! Celena is such a shining star!

Additionally, Celena was featured in a recent *East Bay Times* article highlighting their Share the Spirit campaign. As a former foster youth, Celena has received support from the Beyond Emancipation organization (a nonprofit based in Oakland) for several years. In the article, Celena describes many of the struggles that are common to older foster youth, especially as they pursue housing, working, and higher education. The article (with a stellar portrait) was originally published on November 20, 2022 and repeated on December 13, 2022 [here](#). If you'd like a pdf of the article (thanks to Claire Mailhiot), contact Susan Walker-Christensen.

### Donor Gift Basket Drawing To Be Held at the March Program

Once again, we plan to hold a drawing for a Thank-You Donor Gift Basket for anyone who donates to AAUW San Ramon Local Scholarship. Donations made starting July 1, 2022 through the day of the drawing at the March program (date TBD) are eligible.

Any member, their family, or friends who make a monetary donation, regardless of amount, either directly or through SPF, will have their name entered in the drawing. ONE LUCKY donor's name will be drawn, and the winner doesn't need to be present to win—but how fun if they are!

The attractive, reusable, and sturdy-handled gift basket is wine themed with an estimated value of \$125–\$150. So far, the basket contains:

- 1 bottle of Bent Creek 2020 Chardonnay from the Mendocino Coast vineyard
- 1 bottle of Artesa Estate Vineyard 2017 Pinot Noir from the Los Carneros region, Napa Valley
- 1 wine opener
- 1 package of 40 lovely sunflower design napkins
- 1 gift card to Chamois Car Wash (Danville) for a Deluxe car wash (valued at \$33)
- 1 box of cocoa chocolate truffles
- 1 bag cornbread crisps
- possibly one more gift card TBD



Thank you in advance for your generous support of Local Scholarship!

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

### Need Print Services?

A shout-out for RoadrunnerPrintMail.com!

Keep them in mind next time you are in need of printing services. The Membership Team is pleased with the quality of our branch brochures and the fast, friendly service received. This female-owned company is local: 100 Ryan Industrial Court, San Ramon.

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### AAUW San Ramon Trivia Game

In recognition of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, here are some fun trivia facts about our branch. See how many you know!

- In what year was our branch chartered?
  - 1984
  - 1962
  - 1881
  - 1982
- Who was our first president?
  - Fran Bartholomew
  - Judy Macfarlane
  - Marie Curie
  - Cheri Ng
- What is the name of our newsletter?
  - The Advocate*
  - News & Views*
  - The View from San Ramon*
  - Happy Days Are Here Again*
- In 2001, we started an endowment grant to support an Educational Foundation Research Project. What amount did we pledge and raise?
  - \$35,000
  - \$50,000
  - \$250,000
  - \$10,000
- During the late 1990s/early 2000s, our branch published guides for people to search for what service:
  - Home healthcare
  - College scholarships
  - Child care
  - Long-term care
- Who are our current presidents?
  - Julie Gin & Diane Griffiths
  - Chris Burchik & Lucy Weed
  - Cindy Alpert & Karen Rice
  - Janice Colby & Kathleen Schaub
- In 1997 we awarded our first Tech Trek camper \$350. Who was our first camper?
  - Amanda Levy
  - Sarah Tan
  - Tawan Udtamadilok
  - Joy Ofodu
- Our Local Scholarship committee works hard to raise money to support college-bound young women. How much have we awarded to graduating high school students over the past 15 years?
  - \$25,000
  - \$77,400
  - \$82,100
  - \$40,500

#### Answers:

1. d, 2. b, 3. c, 4. a, 5. c, 6. d, 7. c, 8. b

You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Kindness. Kindness. Kindness. I want to make a New Year's prayer, not a resolution. I'm praying for courage.

Susan Sontag



## Interest Groups

### LUNCH BUNCH

#### First Tuesday

Tuesday, January 3; 11:30 AM

We'll ring in the new year at Erik's Deli, 2551 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, San Ramon. Please join us for fun conversation and yummy food.

Questions? Contact  
Margo James



### GAME NIGHT

#### First Saturday

Saturday, January 7; 7:30 PM

**In person!**

Game night will be in person:  
Host: Lucy Weed

Kindly RSVP to  
Lucy Weed



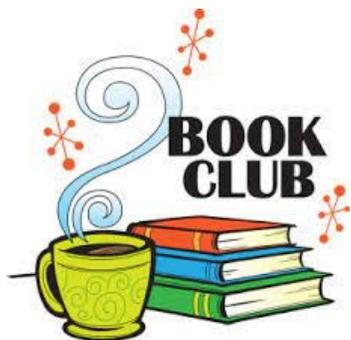
### DAYTIME READERS

#### Second Monday

Monday, January 9; 1:00–3:00 PM

**Via Zoom videoconference**

Kathy Senti will review *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, by Helen Simonson. If you have questions or wish to be put on the e-mail list to receive a Zoom invitation, please contact  
Margo James



## Interest Groups

### LOCAL WALKING GROUP

#### Second Saturday

Saturday, January 14; 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 be a part of this interest group.  
Contact:  
Andrée Chagnon  
Lois Kamoroff



### THE NIGHT BOOK GROUP

#### Third Monday

**Via Zoom videoconference**

Monday, January 16; 7:00 PM

Millie Kessler will review *The Nature of Fragile Things* by Susan Meissner.  
Questions? Contact Cheri Ng



### TUESDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

#### Third Tuesday

Tuesday, January 17; 7:00–10:00 PM or so

**Virtual and/or In-person**

Host: Jane Young

We will play bridge via Zoom/teleconference and BridgeBase and/or in person.

Kindly RSVP to Chris White and let her know:

1. if you are interested in playing or not
2. if you wish to play in person or virtual



### FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF)

Friday, January 27; 7:30 PM

**Via Zoom videoconference**

Organizer TBD

*Let me know if you would like to pick the movie for January or for February 24.*

We need volunteers!

Contact Chris White

## 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 Mailhot  
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

Andrée Chagnon

### NEWSLETTER

Carol Lombardi

### PUBLIC POLICY

Catherine Lewis

### TECH TREK

Stella Hadjimarkos  
Cordelia Hwang



## Tips For Change Event benefitting

# TECH TREK

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH**

**DINING & PICK UP AVAILABLE BETWEEN 4:30PM - 8:00PM  
GO TO [WWW.GIANNISSANRAMON.COM](http://WWW.GIANNISSANRAMON.COM) OR CALL 925-820-6969  
TO MAKE A RESERVATION OR PLACE A TO-GO ORDER**

The San Ramon Branch of AAUW promotes equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and scholarships. We build relationships among local women and support our purpose through community engagement, events, activities, and educating programs that enrich our lives. The money we raise today goes to Tech Trek a week-long residential math/science camp for seventh grade girls.

As always, all tips and 10% of sales go to support the organization. You will enjoy a wonderful dinner and support a worthy cause. It's a Win-Win

2065 SAN RAMON VALLEY BLVD.  
SAN RAMON, CA. 94583  
[WWW.GIANNISSANRAMON.COM](http://WWW.GIANNISSANRAMON.COM)  
925.820.6969

*Tips  
FOR  
Change*

*Gianni's*  
ITALIAN BISTRO