

Newsletter

Welcome to Spring! After a year of lock-down of one level or another, we have learned the techniques of communicating and enjoying each other's company through video conferencing and other safe distancing ways. As Spring begins we have many events on our calendar of Events and Meetings planned by AAUW Berkeley here and beyond!!

March 22 7-8:30 pm webinar from AAUW CA. "How to Talk to Legislators". This is training for AAUW CA Lobby Day. Sign up on Eventbrite website.

March 24 AAUW CA Lobby Day with no travel involved! Lobby for public policy issues

April 10 3 pm. Berkeley Branch presents *Sisters in Crime* with two authors including a discussion on the "lady sleuth." Use Eventbrite for registration. Questions? Informational flyer is found page 4 inside this newsletter.

April 17 10 am. AAUW West Contra Costa County Branch *Sisters in Crime*. Send email to aauw.wcc.94530@gmail.com for an invitation link.

April 17 9:30 am. AAUW California Annual Meeting includes the Business Meeting, Named Gift Award, Speech Trek videos, introduction of candidates for the Board of Directors, and a performance on Zoom of "We Did It for You", a Cathy Foxhoven special. In "normal" years this would cost you some real money, but this year with covid-19 and online operations, the cost is practically zero. For each program that is put on by AAUW-CA, you can get more details from the website aauw-ca.org.

April 24 4:00-6:00 pm. AAUW Berkeley sponsors "From Community College to Elected Office". A panel discussion and featuring elected officials who started their college work at a community college. Organized by AAUW Berkeley member Karen Weinstein, a former member of the Peralta Board of Trustees. See the invitation for the meeting and Information flyer.

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From Community College to Elected Office: A Panel Discussion of Elected Officials Who Attended Community College With Questions by Our Students

Reserve Your Space: www.tinyurl.com/cctoelectedoffice

Karen Weinstein
AAUW Berkeley Branch Member, Former Peralta Board Trustee, Community College Advocate

Adena Ishii

Voter Education Advocate

The AAUW Berkeley Branch is proud to announce we are sponsoring the panel discussion "From Community College to Elected Office" on Friday, April 23, 2021 from 4-6 pm. You can reserve your spot by going to www.tinyurl.com/cctoelectedoffice or to karenweinstein.berkeley@gmail.com

Our panelists will talk about their experiences, the obstacles they have faced and the unique paths they took to run for elected office. You will also hear from our community college students who will share their stories and ask the panelists questions. Believe me, you don't have to run for office to enjoy this event.

In this current climate we are reminded that diverse representation is extremely important to help us work towards racial, gender and economic justice.

Panelists:

Assemblymember Ash Kalra is the first Indian-American to serve in the California State Legislature. He has just been elected to Chair the California Legislative Progressive Caucus.

Aisha Wahab is the Hayward Mayor Pro Tempore. She is the first Afghan American woman elected to public office in the United States and is an advocate for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Terry Taplin is a Berkeley City Council Member. He is the first African American, LGBTQ poet elected and he is a climate justice leader.

Adena Ishii is the first Japanese American, woman of color to become the President of the League of Women Voters Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville. She is currently a second year law student and is a community leader with a fierce commitment to voter education.

Assemblymember Robert Rivas represents the 30th Assembly District, and currently serves as the Vice Chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus and Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee. Having grown up with a stuttering disability and in farmworker housing, Rivas learned the challenges facing his community from his grandfather, a farm worker who stood side-by-side with Cesar Chavez.

Oakland City Council President Pro Tempore Sheng Thao is the first Hmong American woman elected to City Council in the State of California. Sheng Thao is the daughter of Hmong refugee parents from Laos. She was born and raised in Stockton and is the 7th of 10 children. She is a domestic violence survivor and a single mother who put herself through college while working and raising her son.



INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR OFFICE SOMEDAY?

JOIN US FOR A PANEL DISCUSSION AND WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, APRIL 23RD, 4-6PM

SIGN UP HERE: <u>WWW.TINYURL.COM/CCTOELECTEDOFFICE</u>
PRESENTED BY AAUW BERKELEY











In Conversation with Authors Amy Peele and Heather Young

Mystery writers Amy Peele and Heather Young will discuss their latest books, the craft of mystery writing, and the power of the female sleuth.

Saturday, April 10, 2021 - Starting at 3:00 pm Doors Open on Zoom at 2:45 pm

Please reserve your ticket(s) at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/inconversation-with-authors-amy-peele-and-heather-young-tickets-147850620185 Zoom Link provided when you reserve your ticket.





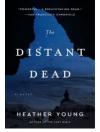
Amy S. Peele has been an RN since 1974. She discovered her passion for organ donation and transplantation when she started as a transplant coordinator at University of Chicago and enjoyed a thirty-five-year career in transplantation before retiring in 2014 from the University of California San Francisco, one of the largest and most successful transplant programs in the United States. Peele has a love for comedy and improv and graduated from Second City Players Workshop in 1985 in Chicago. She has been writing for over twenty years. In addition to killing people and using their organs in her murder mysteries, she enjoys meditating, practicing & teaching chair yoga, and swimming. Amy was recently elected to the Novato City Council, where she's discovering a new population of folks that may find their way into becoming her literary victims.

Purchase Link (Book Passage): https://www.bookpassage.com/book/9781647420185



Heather Young is the author of two novels. Her debut, The Lost Girls, won the Strand Award for Best First Novel and was nominated for an Edgar Award for Best First Novel. The Distant Dead, published in 2020, was nominated for an Edgar Award for Best Novel and named one of the ten best mystery and suspense books of the year by Book Page.

She lives in Mill Valley she writes, bikes, hikes, and reads books by other people that she wishes she'd written.



Purchase Link (Book Passage): https://www.bookpassage.com/book/9780062690814

Questions? Call Phyllis Gale via 510-508-4389 or p2gale@gmail.com

AAUW Berkeley Branch News

President's Letter - Sarah Miyazaki

Since January 1, 2021 many activities have occupied AAUW members and friends of the branch. January 9 the Board and others met on Zoom to discuss future events to advance the Mission of AAUW locally. Announcements included the coming dues increases and that members will be polled on whether to remove the degree requirement from the bylaws this spring. As AAUW-CA is planning to hold Tech Trek online and our local school children are attending school online, it was decided to sit out the process for summer 2021. It is just too difficult to search for appropriate students and is too different in content and setting for us to be willing to participate. The funds we have banked with the AAUW Special Projects Fund, including donations from Jim Veitch and his employer will be carried over to next year. Jim's wife, Chris Byrne, is a generous branch member and one of their daughters participated as a dorm mother and staff person a few years ago.

Our February 6 meeting agenda included Treasurer April McMahon's proposed budget for 2021-2022 based on 14 members and including a Tech Trek Event Fund Raiser. Also touched on was the national AAUW dues increases in the offing: \$3 in 21-22, \$5 in each of the following two years. A new topic was a Berkeley and Oakland-Piedmont branches merger. The initiative was begun by an Oakland-Piedmont-Branch letter that was shared with all branch members with discussion to be continued in March and shared with the Oakland Piedmont presidents, both incoming and outgoing. Also mentioned were Branch Named Gift Honoree Nominations. For every \$750 donated to the national organization from members, one person can be nominated based on non-monetary efforts in the branch. When I looked at Berkeley's credits on the national membership website, I thought we were eligible to name one person. Subsequently I saw we were/are able to name one more person based on the full year 2020's giving! So, I turned in two nominations. Thanks to all. In addition we touched on:

- The AAUW-CA Annual Meeting with its workshops and reports, April 17, 2021.
- The AAUW-CA web team @aauw-ca.org is available to help advertise events.
- The 5 Star Program from AAUW national board
- NCCWSL, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, in late May

Here we are in March and the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines is picking up, heading as we hope for a time when we can meet in person and indoors. Recently I heard and saw on Zoom several of the young women to whom we awarded \$1000 in funds to help them afford to continue as UC Berkeley enrollees. Because of the pandemic guidelines, they were limited as to opportunities to pay for their expenses by some of the usual ways. This was the motivation for doing this project. Two are recent transferees from Berkeley City College and the rest are doing graduate work. They were among the roughly 120 who applied for these funds put up by the Berkeley Branch and the College Women's Club. Anita Botello Santoyo headed up this project with the help of a team including Chris Wildsoet, Chris Byrne, Karen Weinstein, Phyllis Gale, April McMahon, and me.

AAUW Berkeley Sponsors Technology and Transition Scholarships for University of California, Berkeley Undergraduate and Graduate Students!

Our new program is led by Anita Botello Santoyo. As the Fall Semester started at UC Berkeley, the Branch Board decided to sponsor \$1,000 scholarships for undergraduates and graduate students to support the additional costs of technology and transition required by attending Berkeley from their homes and other locatioins. We publicized a call for applications for these scholarships and more than 100 students applied!! We were pleased and a little overwhelmed. After careful analysis of their applications, we chose 7 recipients:

- 1. <u>Orneika Flandrin</u> is a graduate student at UC Berkeley's School of Optometry. Orneika is a second-year student with research interest in ocular biology.
- 2. <u>Joyceline Marealle</u> is a graduate student in the field of Energy and Resources at UC Berkeley. Her research interests include energy decentralization, diversification, economics, and empowerment of women.
- 3. <u>Tsegereda Esatu</u> is a graduate student in the field of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at UC Berkeley.
- 4. <u>Sarah Ellen Omowa Fowles</u> is a graduate student in the Public Health Fiscal Policy, Interdisciplinary AD HOC Ph.D. program at UC Berkeley.
- 5. Sara Abboud is a graduate student at the UC Berkeley's School of Optometry.
- 6. <u>April Salazar</u> is an undergraduate student at UC Berkeley. April is a transfer student from Berkeley City College and is majoring in Cognitive Science.
- 7. <u>Sarah Dibas</u> is an undergraduate student at UC Berkeley. Sarah is a transfer student from Berkeley City College and majoring in Psychology with a pre-med track.

We recently had a Zoom meeting with our recipients and learned how they used the scholarship to cover additional costs of attend the University from their offsite location. Each recipient stressed the importance of using the funds to support their computer needs since they could no longer use Campus resources. They also shared how they are coping with the changes in school. One new graduate student lamented that she chose Cal for the campus and ambiance; she related she had yet to make a step on Campus. The Board also approved the funds to support our scholars to attend AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders which will be held online this year. We will also provide them a student membership in AAUW. We are proud that the Berkeley Branch can support young women in their efforts to continue with their educations in spite of the COVID-19 challenges.

AAUW California News

AAUW California Annual Meeting, April 17, 2021 Via Zoom

Our AAUW California Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom for the second year. No travel, no hotel reservations, and no lunch once again. But that means you can attend at no cost from your office, living room, or kitchen.

You will learn what has been happening in California this past year and it is a lot! You will see the three Speech Trek Finalists, learn who our 2020 State Named Gift Honoree is, and see the first

Equity Award given to former State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. AAUW Board Chair, Julia Brown will join us and we have a special event brought to us by past Co-President Cathy Foxhoven. Don't delay. Plan to join us on April 17th at 9:30 am by registering now! You can register at the link below:

https://www.aauw-ca.org/2021-aauw-california-state-annual-meeting/

AAUW National News

AAUW National Election 2021

It's your AAUW and your voice counts

This spring, AAUW members will be asked to vote on amendments to the Public Policy Priorities and Bylaws, in addition to electing members to the national board of directors. At the link below, you'll find all the information you need on the proposed bylaws and Public Policy Priorities changes. The comment period is now closed. Voting will begin in April and continue through May. You will be contacted via email with online voting information.

The "hot topic" is voting on the change in the National Bylaws to membership requirements. The AAUW National Board has passed a change to eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. The AAUW Berkeley Board has voted to support the elimination of a degree requirement.

For more information on the National Vote, please go to the following link:

https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/

It is Almost Time for 2021-2022 AAUW Membership Renewal

With all the change that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to us, you may have forgotten to pay your 2020-2021 Dues. Phyllis Gale, Membership, will be sending you full instructions with a form to be completed and returned with your dues payment to the Branch. Your new membership expiration date will be June 30, 2022. It is never too late to get caught up!

Going forward for the 2021-22 year, the new dues amount approved by the Board is \$95.00. This includes an increase of \$3 for National dues. For renewal members, AAUW National will be implementing the new process to pay dues for 2021-22 after April 15th. The Branch will send out a note to let you know the changes. It will be followed by a formal dues invoice via email from AAUW National with instructions on how to pay. We look forward to your continued support as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and we can return to Tech Trek STEM Camps for Middle School Girls and meeting together.

Questions: Contact Phyllis Gale via <u>p2gale@gmail.com</u> or 510-508 4389. AAUW Berkeley Mailing Address is AAUW Berkeley, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley CA 94707.