

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 resurgence
Most in-person activities have been temporarily suspended

View from Here

Dear Paradise Members:

Our Holiday gathering was a festive event, with plenty of soup, wine, and delicious goodies.

Thank you to Nancy for hosting this always-looked-forward-to event at her lovely home. We enjoyed gathering in her new kitchen, which was ideal for displaying what was brought to share.

We wish a Healthy and Happy New Year to all our members.

Due to concerns over the latest variant of COVID-19, the Board has voted unanimously to hold all meetings via Zoom until further notice. We have also decided to postpone our annual Soup Supper event which was scheduled for January 18, 2022, for the same reason.

The annual IBC meeting which had been scheduled for early February has also been postponed and rescheduled to April 9th.

We remain optimistic and look forward to the resumption of in-person gatherings in the months to come.

~ Sue Griffin and Kit Oldham, Co-facilitators



Holiday Gathering at Nancy's home



Evening book group meeting at Jan's home

Branching Out is published four times a year by the Paradise Branch of the American Association of University Women. AAUW Paradise is committed to advancing lifelong education opportunities and equity for girls and women. We will do this while providing growth opportunities and support for our members and establishing a positive visible presence on the Paradise Ridge.

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.



Public Policy: Take Action!

Because 2022 is a mid-term election year, our ballots will offer many candidates and CA ballot initiatives. Locally, Chico AAUW and the League of Women Voters will offer some explanations and insight.

But, for National issues - that do affect us - go to [aauw.org](https://www.aauw.org) and search for Public Policy (or go to Google and enter in “[aauw.org](https://www.aauw.org) public policy”). Besides finding information on key national issues, you can sign up for “Two-Minute Activist”, an easy way to send emails and texts to your legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education and more.

Sign up to get regular alerts to be able to take timely action. <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

~ Carol Holzgrafe
Public Policy

Tech Trek

The latest news from Tech Trek is this: As of mid-January our U.C. Davis camp directors, Martha Rees and Susan Wheeler, are planning an in-person camp for the week of July 17-23. The university has not yet sent a contract but is working with our directors to do so soon.

Now, many tricky details remain to be figured out before our residential camp can open, not the least of which is our AAUW California insurance company, plus the dratted Covid of course.

The other news is that Tech Trek will definitely offer a virtual camp for those who cannot attend an in-person camp or, perhaps, our alternates not chosen for the larger experience. Camp directors hope that, while there will be a single virtual camp, the girls will have a choice of morning “core classes” as they do at our in-person camps. This would give them, not only a choice of robotics/tech, but also – possibly - marine biology, anatomy, architecture, genetics, or forensics.

The good news is that, while the cost to send each of our Paradise girls to camp was expected to go up, it will only be \$1,000. The virtual camp cost will be \$400 as in 2021.

In the meantime, our Paradise Tech Trek committee will contact the intermediate schools to determine interest of teachers and students and, once the “packet” arrives, will begin the selection process.

According to our branch financial officer, Nancy Wirtz, we have \$3,000 in our Tech Trek fund. That is sufficient to send two girls to residential camp and two more to the virtual camp.

So, stay tuned for more details as they appear on the horizon. Do also watch for the annual fund-raising letter from our branch asking for funds for the Pence Scholarship to Butte College and for next year’s Tech Trek girls.

~ Carol Holzgrafe
Tech Trek Branch Coordinator for AAUW
Paradise



When is a Convention not a Convention?

When it's Adventures in AAUWLand. And it unfolds on Saturday, April 30. You, too, can join – on Zoom – without traveling or paying for hotels. This is what to expect:

Speakers:

- Lisa Maatz, former AAUW's policy rock star, is quite possibly the most informative, most amusing speaker I have ever heard. If we are lucky, she will tell us the story of how she got doors on the girls' bathroom when she was 8 years old.
- Gloria Blackwell is AAUW's new CEO and quite an enthusiastic speaker. You will learn what is new at AAUW – and what important work we are doing for women and girls.
- Jasmine Sadler is a different kind of scientist; one who dances. She is owner and founder of The STEAM Collaborative. STEAM is science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.
- Congresswomen Jackie Speier, a fearless fighter for women's equality, LGBTQ rights and the disenfranchised and long-time friend of AAUW, may be able to appear to accept a valued award.

Between these speakers you will be treated to three videos of the Speech Trek finalists. Believe me, this is always the high point of any AAUW convention-type gathering. Three high school girls will give 6-minute speeches on this topic: *"Has the United States lived up to its pledge of "liberty and justice for all"? Would requiring the study of diversity, equity and inclusion in a high school setting help ensure liberty and justice for all?"*

This, of course, is based on this section of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.
"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights,

that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

And, wait, there is more: Members can twice choose from many topics to discuss in break out rooms (Zoom allows this). These are not lectures or PowerPoint presentations but a true interactive discussion with a leader to direct things. The topics range from Tech Trek to engaging AAUW members to taking care of yourself to the adult Speech Trek – What would your answer to the Speech Trek question be? And much more.

So do register for this exciting event soon at aauw-ca.org

~ Carol Holzgrafe
Director, AAUW California
Branch/Member Assistance



Holiday Gathering at Nancy's Home





AAUW Paradise Obituary for Marygrace Colby (Written by Carole Holzgrafe)

Our friend and long-time Paradise AAUW member Marygrace Colby died in Morgan Hill on Sunday, January 16. She had been in senior living for several years, in assisted living for one year, in a convalescent home for two weeks, and then in hospice for only a few days.

Marygrace was passionate about providing more opportunities, in all disciplines, for girls and women. She encouraged female athletes in her role as coach and Athletic Director at Santa Clara University where she began the women's athletic program in a previously all-male school and bravely filed a Title IX complaint to make it happen properly. Her years of coaching resulted in friendships with several athletes who became famous; many of her former students honored her long after her retirement.

SCU has named a golf tournament in her honor and welcomed her presence at each event. And one can see a plaque that hangs in the new Schott Athletic Excellence Center which honors her service for the university.

She volunteered at the Stanford campus of AAUW's Tech Trek STEM Camps for Girls, serving six years as Assistant to the Director and always kept in touch with girls she helped select for camp and with friends she made on site.

Her long-time friend, Marie Wolbach, who was director of Tech Trek Stanford at the time, says, "This led to the best compliment from her during the first year, 1999, that she was at TT." "This camp is so well organized; better than the sports camps I worked at, and they had fancy facilities and a big budget." (Marygrace had worked at sports camps in Arizona and Colorado for many years.)

After retirement she followed her brother Bob to Magalia where she happily joined AAUW Paradise, made many friends, was a stalwart

worker in all branch events, held most board positions, and acted as Tech Trek coordinator. Marygrace donned costumes to participate in AAUW's Women's History presentations and was active in fundraising to provide scholarships for our local girls.

She shared her life with a succession of fortunate cats and worked with the North County Animal Rescue group to provide help during our frequent emergencies. While she no longer had her own cat when she moved to assisted living, there was a resident cat that visited regularly; he learned quickly where the best petting and treats were to be found.

I visited Marygrace every time I was in Morgan Hill – which was at least once a month. We shopped and often had lunch together. Marie Wolbach and I had planned to visit her in hospice on January 21 but, alas, she was gone before then.

Anyone who knew her, can say that Marygrace was a very good friend.

