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(INTERIM) PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Hope you are all well and doing the best possible to navigate through these complicated times.

I will update you about the business on which the Board of Directors are currently focused.

Important information and questions for you are included in the following text.

1. We are developing this year's budget with Kyle Mayers, our new treasurer.
2. The 2021 - 2022 yearbook is being revised with the help of Peggy Weber, a friend of AAUW from Willits, and we plan to distribute them at our Fall Dinner meeting. ***If any of you need to update your address, phone number and email address, please send this information to me as soon as possible.***
3. Janet Chaniot has been working on three interesting programs for our membership meetings, the details of which will appear in our yearbook, and sent to you individually by e-mail as each one is finalized. We are planning them to be both fun and to fulfil the mission of supporting women and students' educational opportunities.
4. I am looking into having our Fall Dinner Meeting at Rivino Winery catered by their in-house chef. ***Before I can confirm this, and send them a deposit to hold the Tuesday, September 28th date, we need to know from you if you intend to come to this dinner meeting.*** It is to be held outside at their beautiful spacious venue, it will cost between \$25-\$30 per person, you are welcome to bring guests. The dinner will include appetizers, a choice of entrees (Salmon, Mediterranean Chicken or Vegetarian) and dessert. You can purchase their delicious wine at the no-host wine bar. We need to have a minimum of 40 people. To date we have 20 guests attending. Food will be brought individually to each table on eco-friendly disposable dinnerware. Covid safety standards will be followed.

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Please send me confirmation of your intention to attend and if you are bringing guests ASAP. This is important so we can determine if we have enough people to make this dinner possible. Some of you asked if men are invited, and they certainly are!

5. We are still looking for members to come forward to join the leadership team and attend board meetings once a month. Can that possibly be you??? Please e-mail or call me.
6. If anyone would like to start or join an Interest Group – such as a Walking Group, a Writers Group, a Movie Watching Group, a Dining Group, a Music Group, an Arts and Crafts Group, Zooming Friends, please inform Sharon Marshall, our board secretary and editor of the newsletter. *sharonjeanmarshall@gmail.com*
7. We are going forward with developing our relationship with Mendocino College. The College has paid the AAUW National and now students can join AAUW for free. We plan to have student members on the Board and before long there will be a Liaison for AAUW Ukiah from the college staff. In the future we may be able to hold our meetings on the college campus.

I imagine that is enough to absorb for now – and enough to respond to as well. Even though seeing each other is challenging, I hope we can be creative and continue to work and play together. Please respond to the italicized questions above as soon as you can. Call or e-mail: *sulinbell@gmail.com* or phone: 462-5747

SCHOLARSHIPS

In keeping with the national theme, "Equity now, together we can achieve a vision of equal opportunity for all" we will be asking for your help to continue all three of our local scholarship programs. Over the years we have supported Tech Trek for middle school girls, Accolades at Ukiah High School and Scholarships for returning women at Mendocino College.

Middle Schools: Girls from Pomolita, Redwood Valley Middle School, River Oak and Redwood Academy who will enter eighth grade in the fall, have the opportunity to go to college for a week. STEM curriculum is taught by volunteers, professional women in these fields, many of them members of AAUW. AAUW of California member Marie Wolbach founded Tech Trek in 1998 at Stanford with the help of an AAUW Community Action Grant, and our girls were some of the first to enjoy the experience.

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This past year the girls only had a virtual experience but we certainly hope next year they will be able to go in person. The Ukiah Tech Trek fund pays \$1,000 for each girl to attend the in-person camp. The branch paid \$5,000 out of the Tech Trek account for five girls to attend camp in 2020. Since that camp was cancelled, we have a balance left over to pay for girls to attend future camps.

Ukiah High School: We have occasionally given a scholarship to a college-bound senior in honor of a former member. Most recently we have awarded one in memory of Evelyn Broaddus and another in memory of Jean Near. We also have an ongoing program called Accolades where AAUW awards a certificate and a stipend of \$100 to four girls who have shown exceptional promise and would benefit particularly by being recognized. The teachers recommend the girls to the counselor whom we work with. We feel that contact with our local high school is an important part of our mission to encourage girls' education.

Mendocino College: We sponsor several scholarships for women who are returning to college after at least five years, are taking 12 units of academic courses, minimum GPA of 3.0 and planning to pursue their education in a four-year college, in academic disciplines such as teaching, STEM, and political science. We give from 2-4 scholarships of \$1,000 depending on your generosity. The scholarships are presented when they enroll in the next year's courses.

As AAUW may find it difficult to meet this year, we are asking for your donations now and will again with envelopes at the Fall Dinner and during the holidays. We need to know how much we have for the college scholarships before January. If your checkbook is handy, please send your check to AAUW Ukiah to PO BOX 1626, Ukiah, CA 95482. You may specify your favorite scholarship or just send it for all of them.

Katie Gibbs, katieg@pacific.net, 707 228-6143

ACTIVITIES:

BOOKMARKERS

We will meet September 16 at 2:00 p.m. under the canopy at 3425 Deerwood, Ukiah.

The book is *Three Martini Afternoons at the Ritz* by Gail Crowther, interconnected biographies of poets Sylvia Plath and Anne Sexton, by a literature professor, and/or favorite poems.

Please join us. We welcome new members. For information call Katie, 707 228-6143 or katieg@pacific.net.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Legislature is currently in summer recess.**From Val Muchowski**

Key Dates: July 14 was the last day for Policy Committees (e.g., Health, Education) to act. The Legislature's summer recess began July 16th and will reconvene on August 16th. August 27th is the last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills.

AB92—a bill related to preschool and childcare services and fees that we are co-sponsoring, is now in Senate Appropriations.

Of our initial list of 39 bills on which AAUW California took positions or is watching, one has been signed by the Governor (re-hiring employees displaced by the pandemic) and 18 are still active.

State Budget was signed by Governor Newsom

A one-time influx of federal funds plus unanticipated California tax revenue increases have enabled addressing some issues that will significantly improve child care and education.

The budget:

Adds 200,000 more subsidized child care spaces, which would almost double the state's total supply.

Increases the amount the state pays to child care providers for each subsidized child, (although the details have yet to be ironed out).

Creates transitional kindergarten (TK) for all 4-year-olds.

Extends the school year and school day for all low-income elementary students.

Provides \$115 million to develop pathways for an associate degree in which students don't have to spend money on textbooks.

Provides state-funded breakfast and lunches for all students, starting this fall

Invests \$2.8 billion to turn about a third of the state's 10,000 schools into community schools that provide health care, family services, and after-school programs through local partnerships.

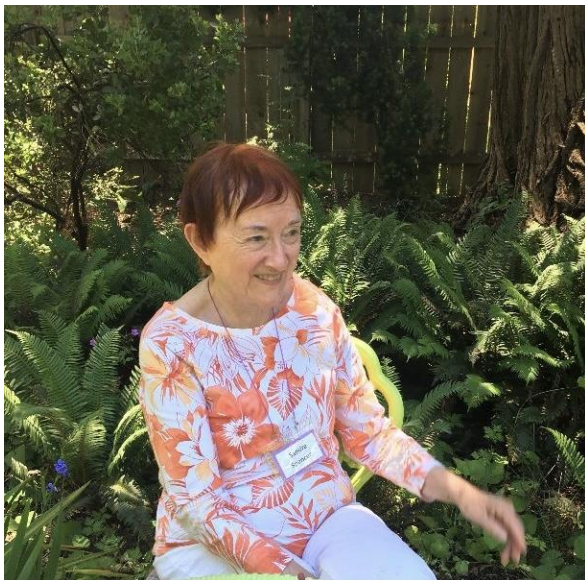
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Provides \$4 billion for a mental health and behavior system that will provide screenings, counseling, and therapy from birth through age 25.

What I need to know: AAUW California is co-sponsoring or watching 39 bills. 18 are still active; one dealing with childcare and education has been signed; 17 bills have not been decided yet.

Track them on <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2021/04/bill-tracking.pdf/>

WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?



Sandy Spencer in her will left half the money from the sale of her house to the AAUW Foundation. She left the other half to University of Southern California for scholarships. Sandy wanted to follow in the footsteps of award-winning authors, scientists, scholars, changemakers and community leaders.

AAUW is providing nearly \$5 million in funding to more than 260 fellows and grantees in the 2021-22 award year. These exceptional recipients will pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls through a legacy left by one of their members.

The Willits AAUW is able to fund scholarships and workshops for young women through a legacy left by one of their members. What about a local legacy to fund our work in equity for young women? Your legacy could provide funds for scholarships for needy girls and women. It could help fund Tech Trek which sends middle school students to Sonoma State for a science and technology program, Accolades which honors good citizenship of high school students, scholarships for students at Mendocino College and help fund post-graduate fellowships.

Would you consider a local legacy? Will you be next to help fund Mendocino girls and women in our quest for equity?

From Virginia (Gini) Spencer, Sandy Spencer's youngest sister

Dear AAUW members,

We all lost a good friend this year, Sandra (Sandy) Spencer, who died on April 9, 2021. Sandra Marian Spencer was born in Syracuse, NY, but in the late 1930's, her family moved to Long Beach, California, where she went to school. She received an AA degree from Long Beach City College, and went on to UCLA and graduated with a BA degree in Spanish. She then reached out and got her Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Southern Calif. (USC). Her first library job was in Santa Ana, California, but she applied for and became the Librarian for the Mendocino County School System in Ukiah, California, that she really enjoyed. She moved to Ukiah c. 1960, and while I don't know when she became a member of AAUW, but I would venture a guess that she joined as soon as she got her degrees. She also held other library positions; her last role was as a reference librarian at Mendocino College.

Sandy was a strong advocate for women's equality and enjoyed carrying out the mission and goals of AAUW, encouraging young women to get as much education as possible. She played an important leadership role for women as a mentor and leader in the Mendocino County branch of AAUW, serving in several roles: Membership, Newsletter, Vice President

Because of her belief in economic security, social equity and advocacy for women, she was most generous and gave, as part of her estate assets, funds to the AAUW Education Foundation in Washington, DC. Her legacy will benefit more women in their careers and assist in furthering their opportunities for more education. Also, as part of her bequests, AAUW will share estate funds with the University of Southern California School of Library Science. These funds are a way for her to give back and support the organizations that were most important in her life. We all thank her very much for her dedication and supportive gifts.



ART CENTER UKIAH: After a long tradition of art exhibits in France, known as Salons, the Salon d'Automne continues to pop up every October on Paris' celebrated Champs-Élysées. Here, artists from all walks of life are invited to exhibit fine art, decorative objects, and photography. In that tradition, Kate Gould, Art Center Ukiah board member, proposed the idea of Ukiah's own autumnal Salon show. We hope that here too, like in Paris, the art will promote lively conversations among groups of viewers. Participating artists include Kate Gould, Jazzminth Moore (new art instructor at Mendocino College), Holly Brackmann, Sue Sweet, Margo Frank, Daphne Alexander, Kirsten Ganzel, Tamsen Donner, Jeanette Carson, Jan Hoyman, Polly Palecek and Laura Fogg. Many others are still expected to contribute their work to the show.

CORNER GALLERY UKIAH: The Ukiah Photography Club has reserved the front windows to show the work of seven of their photographers: Adel Clark, Kent Leland, Martin McClure, Tom Raymondson, Park Steiner, Volkhard Stürzbecher, Chris Watt. Among the exhibition photos will be: "Valley of Dreams, New Mexico" by Volkhard Stürzbecher, as well as "Mallard Drake with Western Pond Turtle" by Park Steiner and "Sundial Bridge, Redding" by Tom Raymondson.

YOUNG ARTIST AT THE CORNER GALLERY: In addition to the members of the cooperative, each month we are featuring a young artist. This month he is Kyle (Khoa) Pham who came from Vietnam in 2012. He credits his family for his interest in photography and at Ukiah High he took the photography classes offered by Lech Slocinski who suggested his name as a featured artist. He has only recently worked on his own style as he uses the medium to explore his deep connection to two completely diverse cultures. In his own words, "I'm creating myself based on the foundation that I have and the culture that I'm still part of, combined with my current experiences." Don't miss his extraordinary portraits.

The First Friday opening at Corner Gallery/Art Center Ukiah is September 3 from 5-8, at 201 South State. The shows will continue through the month of September. The gallery is open Tuesday-Saturday between 11 and 5.