

Climate advocate will Zoom in on Sept. 12

March speaker's date reset thanks to Covid

Mid-Pen chapter will finally get to hear our March speaker who was a victim of our shelter-in-place order.

Well, we're still sheltering-in-place but Shelley Silbert, executive director of Great Old Broads for Wilderness, will talk to us via Zoom about Climate Change: Its Impact on Public Lands and Our Lives at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12.

Cathy Chowenhill will send out the invitation to the Zoom meeting a couple of days before, so keep an eye on your email inbox.

Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a national grassroots organization — led by women — that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Great Old Broads trains and supports women as grassroots leaders and advocates for 40 grassroots chapters across the country.

Silbert is responsible for leading the organization's strategic initiatives, including a major goal to make public lands part of the solution to climate change.

"Our wild landscapes have been drilled and mined for energy for over a century, but now we know that these very activities are leading to global environmental disaster," Silbert said. "We believe land that belongs to the public should serve the public interest.

"We can choose to keep fossil fuel safely underground while we protect and restore our forests, grasslands, and deserts to minimize climate change and allow public lands the resilience to adapt to those changes we can't avoid."

As part of the organization's work in 2019, Great Old Broads received a \$300,000 foundation grant to establish a Climate Education and Stewardship Program. The program will engage rural and urban com-



Environmental advocate Shelley Silbert, executive director of Great Old Broads for Wilderness, will speak to the Mid-Peninsula chapter of AAUW on Sept. 12, via Zoom.



munities in collaborative education, stewardship and ecological restoration projects to increase carbon sequestration and climate resilience on public lands, empowering residents to safeguard communities and natural habitat against climate change.

The curriculum in development will form the basis for public talks presented in the spring and summer of 2020.

Before she joined Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Shelley was Director of Strategic Initiatives at Northern Arizona University from 2003 -2011, leading de-

velopment of environmental and Native American programs.

From 1994-2003, she directed The Nature Conservancy's Northern Arizona Program, managing three nature preserves and leading conservation, restoration and outreach programs.

From 1988-1991, she worked for the University of Arizona as Director of the Centro Rural de Investigaciones Agropecuarias in central Mexico, bringing university students and faculty to Mexico to conduct applied research on rural development initiatives.

Reach out to friends who are concerned about climate change and invite them to hear Shelley. If they are interested, send their emails to Cathy so she can send them the Zoom invitation.

Create a new routine during pandemic — and stay with it

By Carole Farina
Co-President

If you are like me, it has taken awhile to develop a pandemic routine, to settle enough to focus on what I am reading, attend to the ever present to-do list and to weed out the unnecessary from the wanted Zooms.

The benefit of unscheduled time is new activities are possible. Whether you try new recipes, listen to lectures, learn about paintings, explore mindfulness or follow a TV exercise program, new offerings are abundant. My procrastination was setting a schedule and forming new habits.



Carole Farina

How do we create our own meaningful

new routine and make it last? According to a youngish woman psychologist who has studied “grit,” the stick-to-it ability we admire and wish to attain, it can be enhanced in any of us.

We need to focus. Set a goal since humans respond well to them. Make reminders with specifics of what, when and where. Look forward to the time to explore and don’t stress about it. Reward yourself afterwards. Repeat!

Your new routine may include a change in lifestyle. Why not now? As well as being fun or an accomplishment, lifestyle changes are beneficial; a long-lasting study of strokes found lifestyle change can reduce the risk of stroke by up to 36 percent.

Most importantly, keep a balance between keeping up with friends, tending your health, exploring new avenues and down time.

Stay masked and well. Keep distancing but don’t be isolated. We want you with us in the fall. We have a bevy of stimulating programs ahead including pop-up virtual meetings. Look for them in The Triad and your email.

Who? What? When?

Co-Presidents: Cathy Chowenhill (cathychowenhill@comcast.net) and Carole Farina (cfarina@alumni.stanford.edu)

Membership: Vicci Mueller (591-5444)

Distribution: Ellen Van Creveld (591-0814)

Electronic distribution: Cathy Chowenhill

Triad editor: Micki Carter (mickicartr@gmail.com)

Sunshine Lady: Marge Haruff is our Sunshine Lady. Please contact Marge at mharuff@aol.com or 592-9900 if you know anyone who would appreciate a card from Mid-Pen Branch.

Know of a prospective member? Please contact Vicci Mueller (viccim@aol.com).

Board Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 1, at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Triad Deadline for September will be Sept. 10. Please send articles in Word format to Micki Carter (mickicartr@gmail.com).

BackTalk

Have something you want to put before your Mid-Pen sisters to elicit ideas and opinions?

Have a bone to pick with the world at large or just your AAUW chapter.

Well, here’s your corner of The Triad to do just that. Email your thoughts to the editor at mickicartr@gmail.com with BackTalk in the subject line. Each submission should be no more than 250 words and must be signed. All will be subject to editing. We hope you’ll be ready to respond to the issues presented.

Questions for our members:

Should the general interest sections, such as book groups, adhere only to the goals of AAUW espoused by a California branch president who has led her organization to 5-Star Award status?

Where do we draw the line on activities and recommendations — or do we?

What is your opinion?

How do we become less biased in thought and actions especially if we are not aware of being biased?

How do we recognize and overcome white privilege?

Our communities are composed of many

nationalities, genders, skin color, abilities, education and economic levels. How can Mid-Peninsula Branch become more inclusive?

Carole Farina

A new book, “Men to Avoid in Art and Life” by Nicole Tersigni, brings together art works and sharp humorous captions to illustrate the types of men that women may encounter. What is a mansplainer? The New York Times review with images is available at [Mansplaining With the Old Masters](#).

Is Tersigni’s assessment fair? What is your mansplainer encounter and do you believe it is common? How do we change

these belittling beliefs that may be held by both men and women?

Carole Farina

If you had school-age children, would you send them to school? What if you were still teaching (since we have so many former teachers in our chapter?

What is your current thinking on the degree requirements for AAUW? Should they stay as they are (AA degree or RN) or should they be eliminated all together. What are the arguments on either side of this debate?

Cathy Chowenhill

Strengthening AAUW-CA's commitment to increase equity for Black women and girls

By **Melissa Maceyko,**
AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

In 2020, a widespread protest movement has emerged, clearly and loudly demanding greater racial equity through systemic change.

This protest movement is in line with the core mission of AAUW: "To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy."

How are these two aligned? AAUW's central mission statement implies a focus on ALL women and girls. To achieve this mission, we must demand greater equity for Black women and girls.

At the national level, AAUW has acknowledged that the organization has historically fallen short of this goal, as it has lacked diversity and inclusion in leadership, membership and focus.

AAUW has taken concrete steps to create organizational change, to better address their mission of serving all women.

Individual AAUW members can also take substantive steps to make sure that the inclusive mission of AAUW is made into a reality — here with a specific focus on racial equity for Black women and girls.

One way this can be done is through white members learning about and engaging in anti-racism and white ally-ship.

Anti-racism is the active practice of calling out racism when it is encountered, which may include having uncomfortable conversations about race and racism in everyday life. Non-racism, the internal and often silent opposition to racism, is positive, but it is not enough to create necessary change.

Related to anti-racism is white ally-ship. White allies are people who make the long-

term commitments and efforts necessary to recognize their racially based privilege and who continually work in solidarity with oppressed groups engaged in institutional and political struggles for justice.

We hope you will join AAUW CA's webinar on Aug. 26 to learn what concrete steps you can take to ensure that the inclusive mission of AAUW will some day become a reality.

Can we change the world?

Listen to this short Ted Talks [Podcast](#) to learn how megacity mayors come together to define and solve common problems like climate inequity and economic and social injustice.



"How city mayors are taking action on climate change" led by Eric Garcetti, mayor of Los Angeles and chair of C40 Cities.

Keep AAUW funds in mind during this difficult period

By **Carolyn Miller**

We know that in these perilous times that we are being asked for so many donations, but we must remember the cause of our AAUW: to help women and girls.

National would like us to give to what they call The Greatest Need Fund #9110. That means National puts it into whatever program they determine is the greatest need of the moment.

But there are many funds that we can contribute to directly if we have a special interest.

Another fund, for example, is the Fellowships and Grants Program. Our last speaker from Stanford University, Aisulu Aitbekava, who is working on renewable energy, benefitted from this fund.

She sent me an e-mail recently and said she is doing well, will be graduating next year and is currently trying to figure out what to do next. Her son is doing well also and that he recently said his first word, "Mama."

She said that research at Stanford is being gradually ramped up and that she can get

some work done in-lab. (They have shifts and there is a cap on the number of people who can be there at any one time. She said it's not the same as it used to be before COVID-19, but definitely better than nothing. She sends her best to all of us.

Another fund to consider is the Cathy Foxhoven Fund #4484. Cathy was our California State co-president for the past two years and did an excellent job. She is a member of the San Mateo Branch. Cathy has asked that any donation to her will go into the greatest Need Fund #9110.

Times are difficult now but please think hard on your AAUW giving. If you have any question or concern, please e-mail me. COVID-19 and its effects have made AAUW's mission even more evident and crucial. Let's stay the course and BE bold, brave and brilliant.

Donate to AAUW National by clicking [here](#). To donate to Mid-Peninsula Branch, mail a check made out to AAUW Mid-Peninsula to Carolyn Miller, 4 Goodwin Court, Redwood City, CA 94061.

Welcome Amy Armstrong

Please meet and welcome Amy Armstrong!

Amy moved to the Bay Area in the late '90s and to San Carlos seven years ago with her husband Joel, daughter Emma, and two dogs. She is West Coast sales director for a print management company, Asia Pacific Offset.

Amy is a multi-media artist, loves music, and is interested in policy surrounding women's health and equal pay rights. She and her family love to hike and take advantage of the Bay Area trails.

This last February, Amy's mother Pat had an unfortunate fall and is in need of 24-hour care. Her mother introduced her to some wonderful AAUW members, and she would like to continue her mother's legacy.

Welcome Amy with open arms!

Amy Armstrong- 415-370-0483
1374 Alameda, San Carlos, CA 94070
amyarm@me.com
BA Cal State University, Northridge, in
Graphic Design
Neighborhood 3, San Carlos

Some sections are meeting! Why not join them?

Book Bunch

We meet by Zoom on the second Friday of the month (Sept. 11) at 12:30. Contact Cheri Sullivan to join (cheryl.sullivan@gmail.com or 217-840-6627). The September book is *Circe* by Madeline Miller. Please come with book suggestions for upcoming meetings.

Spanish Conversation

Our group of Spanish speakers meets on Zoom some Monday afternoons at 2:30. For more information and to be included, contact Marilyn Zack, marilynzack10@yahoo.com.

Public Policy

This section meets every fourth Tuesday

via Zoom. Our meeting will be Sept. 22 from 3-5 p.m. Look for a Zoom invitation from Yvonne Bergero (ybergero@mac.com) in your inbox. It will be a general discussion meeting and sign-up for monthly Public Policy topics. All Mid-Pen members are invited to join us by sending a request to be added to our email list to Yvonne.

Historic Preservation

The annual Victorian Days events at the San Mateo County History Museum (virtual this year) include a Vintage Fashion Show, Etiquette of Tea, and various walking tours of the towns in our county. All can be seen [here](#). Nancy Oliver helped make the video tour of San Carlos.

Women in Literature

We are in the process of setting up virtual meetings to discuss our book choices. If you'd like to participate, contact Nancy Oliver at 650-592-5822.

Hiking

The group continues to meet on Thursday mornings. There's renewed interest in spending time together! Members of the group suggest walks, hikes, routes and the time and place to meet, and then someone leads and does the emails for that week. Stephanie Katz is the contact (stk4@lehigh.edu).

Equality versus equity: Aren't they the same positive thing?

By Carole Farina

What is the difference between equality and equity?

We can look at it as the difference between a set flat amount and one fixed by a sliding scale. Equality means the same for all while equity takes into account varying starting levels.

We do not all have the same experiences and opportunities.

Bias is simply a preference but differences are frequently seen as negative rather than as supplements with benefits.

Two webinars by AAUW examine equity, bias and inclusion. They advise how to become pro-active: be aware of your preferences, be intentional with words and actions, be an active listener, and be accountable.

Webinar: Is Your Perspective Inclusive?

Our perspectives shape our interactions with others and help frame how we value culture, talent, beliefs and background.

Webinar: Holding Space—How to Start and Continue Conversations on Race, Equity and Inclusion

San Carlos vice mayor talks to her Mid-Peninsula sisters

By Cathy Chowenhill

Mid-Pen member Laura Parmer-Lohan, the vice mayor of San Carlos, talked to the branch Wednesday, Aug. 12, via Zoom.

She told us her story of becoming a strong leader, starting with the influence of her mother, who encouraged her to believe she could achieve her dreams – whatever they were. She met resistance along the way and learned how to stand up and take her place in the world.

She worked her way up in the corporate business world and was able to claim a seat at the table. However, she eventually decided to build her own table! She established and runs a consulting business, along with being the vice-mayor in San Carlos.

We're lucky to have her as a member of Mid-Peninsula AAUW, and we thank her for sharing her story with us.



Laura Parmer-Lohan

Join AAUW as we hold space for a collective journey toward gender, race, equity and inclusion dialogue led by Dr. Taharee Jackson.

These will be available on the AAUW.org [website](#) in Past Events

Though I may not be here with you, I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe.

— John Lewis

Celebrating our 2020 Named Gift Honorees

The Named Gift Honorees are unveiled as a surprise at our year-end meeting in June. But since you already know who they are, consider this a well-deserved second look.

By Jean Dehner

Surprising the Named Gift Honoree is always a delight, and this year is no exception.

If I had just half a dozen words to describe her, I would say “conscientious,” “hardworking,” “caring,” “giving,” “loyal,” and “tenacious.” But that’s not enough to tell the story!

This person is the mother of two daughters, and the grandmother of three granddaughters and a grandson. As a mom, she managed Girl Scout troops, and all that goes with it from cookie sales to camping trips, and everything in between.

With her daughters now having families of their own, she continues to volunteer at Sequoia High School working with high school students to improve their reading, writing, and study skills.

She’s often out on the trail with the branch hiking group on Thursdays. That is, unless she and her husband are traveling the world, sometimes with a grandchild along. She’s a fountain of information about navigating the world travel scene.

Shortly after joining AAUW she learned about Tech Trek. What a perfect extension of parenting, scouting and volunteering in a classroom!

In 2012 she began her Tech Trek adventure as a Dorm Mom at Camp Hopper, which can best be described as “parenting” about a dozen 13-year-olds for an entire week, (24/7) at Stanford.

Not only did she spend a week each summer as a dorm mom at Hopper, she would go the following week to lend a hand with a variety of tasks at Camp Curie.

It wasn’t long till Pat Ivester, knowing of her many skills and dedication to Tech

Trek, reached out to her. For the last six years, she has been the registrar for camp Curie in addition to being a dorm mom during camp week!

Those duties begin in March when the selected campers receive all their registration forms, which are considerable. She is ‘glued’ to her computer until every i is dotted

you have finished your job filling as many as you can and I’ll see what needs to be done, and we will go from there.” She often has taken two jobs that no one else wanted to do.

“No” is not an acceptable answer for her. She always takes up the slack. The jobs she undertakes are always done with special expertise, including president. She is the kind of woman that our branch would have a hard time to get along without.

She was 24 when she left her home town and came to the United States, and ended up in California where she married her now husband. She earned her master’s degree in math while working full-time.

They now have a wonderful daughter and granddaughter. Our NGH took her daughter and granddaughter to the Women’s March in San Francisco this past year.

A very valuable member for AAUW in general. She loves to bike and walk. I’m sure many of you have hiked

with her in our hiking section. She has been an AAUW member since 1973, and I think she has been on our board for that long, too.

She was a highly respected math teacher for 25 years before retiring. She has traveled many places in the world.

I have worked with her and found her to be intelligent, witty, generous, irreverent, and funny with a sharp sense of humor. She is loyal, always has your back, and never says a bad word about anybody. She knows how to get to the heart of problems and come up with good ideas on how to solve them.

She has strong beliefs and backs them with convictions and actions.

Learning is very important to her. She takes classes on Zoom – not yoga class, but one on how to program your computer and things that I know nothing about or begin to understand.

I am very delighted to present this honor to a very special person, and one that I call a very special friend, Wilma Hoffman



Chris Panero



Wilma Hoffmann

and it is crossed so camp can open knowing who each girl rooms with, that the nurse has all the information she needs, and all the emergency forms and parent contacts are in perfect order, and the dorm moms are all set with their groups. Those duties don’t end till the first day of camp in July. But for her it’s not over then. She then welcomes her dozen campers for their week at Camp Curie.

By now you know to whom this honor is being given for years of dedication and service to AAUW and Tech Trek. Congratulations, and thank you from AAUW and the Mid-Peninsula branch board and members, the Tech Trek Camp staff and campers to... Chris Panero.

By Carolyn Miller

It is a great honor for me to present our next NGH. She is well known to most of you. She has performed 90% of the jobs in our branch. She is one of those persons who, when asked to do specific jobs by the nominating committee, says, “Call me when

Ideas to keep you stimulated during the SIP

Explore a subject with me

Coffee is one of the most valuable legally traded commodities in the world and consumption is estimated to be 2.25 billion cups a day worldwide. But do you know where it originated or that the stimulant in caffeine serves the plant as a pesticide? Or why it became popular in Arabia and or with tea-drinking American colonialists?

Check out Dave Eggers' *The Monk of Mocha* and PBS' Food column *The History Kitchen* of April 8, 2013, "The Caffeinated History of Coffee" for two versions.

What's the story of tea and chocolate? When will we run out of water? Why do some plants only bloom once? What's your question? If you are interested I will setup a Zoom once a month or as wanted to talk about non-political, tangible topics. Carole Farina, <mailto:cfarina@alumni.stanford.edu>

Music fans

Share websites, local performance locations, and opinions relating to all music genres by email and/or Zoom. Bone up on composers and famous compositions on San Francisco Symphony sponsored [Keeping Score](#).

Email cfarina@alumni.stanford.edu to indicate you want to join in.

If you enjoy music and would appreciate a live performance of country-style music, then consider driving or walking by 48 Lowell St, Redwood City, on Saturday afternoons between 3 and 5 p.m.

The band is composed of three men who have played together for decades. They play guitar, harmonica and sing. If the group is playing, you will hear them before you see them. They play from inside the home's two-car garage with the garage door open.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy the music from the sidewalk (bring a beach chair). Be aware that when they have other commitments, they do not play so drop by another Saturday, perhaps as you run errands.

What are you watching?

Carolyn Chambers offers these suggestions:

On Netflix (TV series)

Anne with an E (based on the classic *Anne of Green Gables* novel)

The Crown (fascinating story of the British royal family)

Schitt's Creek (comedy)

Last Tango in Halifax

Grace and Frankie (comedy)

On Hulu (movie section)

The Bookshop - a wonderful movie

(PG) based on a great novel set in a small English village.

Micki Carter and her family are hooked on the British mysteries. The best, of course, are on PBS's *Masterpiece Theatre*.

However, if you've missed some or want to add some more of the same genre, consider searching out *BritBox*. It doesn't require a subscription and has lots of lighter fare as well.

What have you been watching? We would love to share your recommendations.

What are you cooking?

Here's an easy, delectable dessert offered by Carolyn Chambers.

Grilled Stone Fruit

Cut your nectarines, peaches or (large) apricots in half. Remove the stone. Brush the flat side with melted butter.

Place flat side on a gas or charcoal grill until nice grill marks appear (about five minutes). Watch carefully.

Place fruit on serving plates with grilled side up. Serve with a scoop of your favorite vanilla bean ice-cream on each piece of fruit, and, for extra credit, drizzle *Grand Marnier* or *Cointreau* liquor over the ice cream.

Micki Carter has a mid-summer overabundance of tomatoes in her garden. The *New York Times* provided a great recipe for :

Heirloom Tomato Tart

Essentially this is the same recipe you would use for a quiche with three large eggs, one-third cup heavy cream, one tablespoon each of fresh oregano and fresh basil, three-quarter cup of shredded mozzarella, quarter cup prepared pesto, four large tomatoes and a pie crust.

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Fit the rolled-out dough into a 9-inch tart pan, allowing the edges to rise about 1/4 inch above the rim of the pan. Prick the dough all over with a fork.

Bake for 15 minutes until beginning to brown at the edges. Increase the oven temperature to 375 degrees.

Meanwhile, cut the tomatoes into 1/2-inch slices. Place in a colander to drain

excess tomato liquid for 20 minutes.

Spread 1/4 cup pesto in an even layer over the parbaked tart crust. Sprinkle the shredded mozzarella over the pesto. Sprinkle the fresh basil and oregano over the cheese.

In a medium bowl, prepare the custard: Whisk together the eggs, cream, salt and pepper until combined. Place the sliced tomatoes evenly over the cheese and herbs in overlapping concentric circles.

Pour the custard evenly over the tomato slices. Swirl the pan to evenly distribute the liquid. Bake until the filling is set and won't jiggle when shaken, about 35 minutes.

Remove from the oven and let cool slightly before serving warm. This tart can also be served at room temperature.

Technology Tips

Carolyn Chambers offers this suggestion:

Have you ever wondered why your computer seems to be slower (less responsive) than it was when you first bought it several years ago? Most likely it is because your computer no longer has enough memory (RAM) to run its operating system software and still have enough memory to run applications, such as email or your browser.

Why has that happened? What has changed?

Well, over the years, the operating system software on your computer has steadily increased in size, due to the automatic updates that are regularly pushed to your computer from Microsoft, Apple or Google.

Such updates are essential because they fix many security flaws in the operating systems. Each update bloats the operating system size and therefore gobbles up the memory (RAM) on your computer. Eventually there is almost no free RAM available and you experience the computer as very slow!

The only solution is to add more RAM (memory) to your computer if the motherboard has an available slot or to buy a new modern computer with sufficient memory (RAM). You need at least 16GB of RAM and a SSD (solid state drive) of 256GB for good performance these days.

By the way, this problem also applies to smartphones, tablets and other such computing devices.

75 years after Hiroshima: An encounter on a train

By Linda Howard

In 1976 I lived in Japan while my former husband was stationed at Yokota AFB.

I would travel many places while in Asia, but one of my most vivid memories happened as I traveled on a train south of Hiroshima. The destination for this trip was to be Miyajima Island.

But before we journeyed to this storied place, there was homage to be paid at another well-known site in Japan – Hiroshima.

The Bullet Train or Shinkansen would pass through this city, and we felt a need to see the place where the first atomic bomb strategically unloaded its deadly payload over a heavily populated area where approximately 100,000 people were mortally injured or vaporized in a matter of seconds on Aug. 6, 1945. I wanted to think and be made aware of this horrific, historical event that was the birth of the Atomic Age.

As my husband and I walked through the streets, I felt a chill which was not entirely from the October evening.

We found the Memorial Cenotaph, a horse-shoe shaped structure which contains the names of all people, regardless of nationality, who perished that day and those who died later as a result of the bomb. I felt the weight of collective guilt about the loss of life that occurred in this city 31 years before.

When we reached Peace Park we saw the ruins of a building which had been one of the few left standing after the bomb dropped.

The next morning, we hopped on the Shinkansen and were happy to be hurtling down the track on our way to Miyajima Island.. However, Hiroshima and its memory were not to be easily left behind.

We spent the day touring, hiking and viewing. It was late afternoon and time to board the train once again and return to Kyoto. As we stood on the train platform looking bewildered and lost, (none of the signs were in English), a Japanese woman approached us and asked if she could help. Her English was perfect with no hint of an accent. When we told her we were going back to Kyoto, she said she would be taking the same train and to follow her. We naturally sat next to her in the train and started talking.

Even though her manner was pleasant and friendly I began to have an uncomfortable feeling as I spoke with her. This woman appeared to be in her late 30s, but it was hard



to tell because of scar tissue on her jaws and neck. It seemed as if her head had been removed and then set back on and held by skin which had been glued. Her hands were gnarled and twisted with webbing between her thumbs and fingers. The overall appearance was of one who had been melted and then put back together.

Even though my description sounds like I would be repulsed, I was not. Her appearance did not bother me because of the warmth she exuded as she talked. Like eyes growing accustomed to the dark, my eyes grew accustomed to her appearance as we spoke. This discomfiting feeling came from the fact that I knew she must have been a victim of the bombing. What must she be thinking of these Americans?

Fifteen minutes of the train ride passed and we were talking like old friends. I asked how she came to speak English so well. My new friend told me her story.

Yes, originally she was from Hiroshima. She had been 7 years old the day the bomb exploded above her city. She lived with her mother, father, sisters and a brother. All she remembered was a momentary, blinding light, like a lightning bolt. I couldn't bear to ask about her family, but she added that her mother had survived. Did that mean everyone else died?

Mostly I just listened, letting the incredible story flow. Soon after the bomb, teams of American doctors moved into the city. It was the perfect petri dish to study the effects of radiation on a human population. She, along with about 20 other children, were chosen to travel to the United States for medical treatment which would include reconstructive surgery for the burns.

When the bomb detonated, her mother experienced unbelievable losses in a mo-

ment's notice. In the days that followed, she would have to make a searing decision about her child and what would be in her best interest. In order for her daughter to receive continued medical treatment, her child would need to stay in the U.S. Many surgeries would follow. The mother would have to be willing to allow her child to be adopted by an American family.

This would ensure her daughter's continued participation in the medical treatment which would last for years. Her mother chose life for her child and sent her to live among strangers – the same people from the country that had changed their lives in an irrevocably catastrophic way.

My traveling companion told me this story with no bitterness, rancor or ethical opinion. I sat mesmerized for an hour listening to her account of an event in history that was the first of its kind.

Before this conversation, I only knew facts and statistics about Hiroshima. With this chance meeting, I was able to see the results of the bomb beyond the numbers and statistics.

The train pulled into the Hiroshima station. My friend was getting off. She said the U.S. was now her home, and she only returned yearly to see her remaining family.

I thought about getting her name, and address but decided not to. We shared an intimate, intense communication for one hour which happens sometimes with total strangers. I wanted to lock this memory into my heart and mind with the impressions and feelings I had at the moment she shared her story with me.

I gazed out the train window as this diminutive woman made her way toward the exit. She turned around and waved before disappearing into the crowd.

A message from the Santa Cruz branch!

Buy your Opportunity Drawing Tickets Now

*Benefits the 7th grade girls that AAUW Santa Cruz County will send to Tech Trek Camp in 2021
Tech Trek is a fun, weeklong, overnight summer camp for 7th grade girls during which students are immersed in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and projects.*

Winners will be selected during the September 26 Zoom Meeting

Grand Prize: 2-night Staycation for Two at Sand Rock Farm

Wine & cheese upon arrival | Breakfast goodies | Gift certificates to local restaurants to use during your stay

Located in Aptos, Sand Rock Farm encompasses ten acres of nature with garden paths, towering trees, lush foliage, beautiful flowers and abundant wildlife including rabbit, quail, fox, deer, racoon, turkeys and banana slugs along with the friendly farm cats and free-roaming chickens. A big, beautiful Craftsman style farm house sits in the middle of it all. A gated entrance ensures privacy and security for guests.

- Choice of the Hidden Garden Suite or the Sun Porch Suite
- Both suites have private entrances
- Reservations may be made no earlier than 10 days in advance
- Stay must be mid-week and taken before 9/25/2021



2nd Prize Wine Tasting

Nicholson Vineyards, Aptos
Wine Tasting for Two +
bottle of wine
OR Wine Tasting for Four

3rd Prize

Gardener's Delight
Two Gift Cards:
-- DIG Gardens \$40
-- Alladin Nursery \$40

4th Prize "In the Spirit" Goodie Tote

A tote bag of goodies specially
curated to celebrate the
Women's Suffrage Centennial

Winners will be notified soon after
the September 26 meeting!



- 1) I would like to buy ____ tickets at \$25 each.
- 2) My check total is: \$_____ (# of tickets x \$25)
Make check payable to: AAUW-SCC
Put "Tech Trek" in the memo line, please
- 3) Mail check and form to: Phyllis Taylor
1128 El Solyo Heights Dr., Felton, CA 95018-9307
Must be postmarked on or before Wed. 9/23

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____