



The Post Graduate *Sept-Oct 2020*

Past President's Message – by Casey Carlton-Mercado

Your Board of Directors has agreed to hold branch meetings virtually until a reliable vaccine for COVID-19 has been developed and administered. If you have not yet attended a ZOOM meeting, please follow Diane Dunnigan's instructions and log on 5-10 minutes before the start of a meeting and make sure your video and audio are turned on. It gets easier each time so don't miss out on some terrific programs. On September 22 we will present "Medicare for All" which we had to cancel in March (details below). We'll also keep you posted on webinars presented by aauw.ca.org or the Sacramento Bee.

Interest groups of 10 or fewer can continue to meet in person wearing masks and observing 6 ft. social distancing, so check out what is happening with your favorite groups.

Thank you for your continued support of our Foothills of El Dorado County Branch of AAUW.

Member Directory – by Lee Boylan

I am working on our 2020-2021 member directories. We will be mailing them to each member in September. There you will find the current board officers, interest groups and committees. As a reminder, we will not have a president this year. Instead we have four administrators who will forward important information and updates on a regular basis.

Notes from Your Treasurer – by Norma Brink

As of August 28, AAUW Foothills of El Dorado has \$7,752.56 on deposit in El Dorado Savings Bank and \$8,169.48 on deposit with Tech Trek Davis toward future summer camps. We have a total of 52 members, many of whom sent in a donation with their renewal dues, which totaled \$555. Thank you so much!

Speech Trek Update – by Sharon Warner

We have an energetic committee and will begin to see if a Virtual Speech Trek is a possibility for us. We have until November 1 to send an MOU committing our branch to the program. This year's subject is "Has Social Media Helped or Hindered the Breaking Down of Barriers for Women and Girls?"

One challenge facing us is how to recruit contestants given the many ways that school is being conducted this year. The committee will be meeting by Zoom in September to start the work. If you want to join, contact Sharon at sharonlovestravel@hotmail.com



Tech Trek Update – by Misty di Vittorio

We were disappointed to hear that the state committee decided that our girls selected in our application process in 2020 would not be eligible to attend camp next year. We will be choosing new girls for next year.

In lieu of their attending camp, we were able to provide some of the flavor of the camp through virtual meetings and projects we provided.

On July 16, Diane Dunnigan, one of our committee and retired science teacher, led a fascinating discussion on the upcoming Artemis mission to the moon.

Soon thereafter, Garima, one of last year's Tech Trekkers, hosted a Zoom meeting where the 2019 campers gave a really good personal recap about their experiences at camp. Our camp director, Martha Rees, joined in the audience. Garima talked about the activities she experienced during the workshop "Women of Confidence," and she said all of the El Dorado County girls from 2019 should keep in touch via chat.

We had another Zoom meeting on July 20 with an Artemis-based project assignment from Diane that the girls could create and share on a private Instagram account.

Finally, the UC Davis camp invited Jayme Gabriel, who works at NASA on the ISS (International Space Ship), to speak at a Zoom meeting with our campers. Jayme is the keynote speaker at the camp and teaches all week. It was a great talk emphasizing self-esteem and self-confidence. About 50 campers attended. It is available on video for those who could not attend.

Our last Zoom meeting on August 11th was a self-confidence workshop which was led by two dorm moms, Laurel Gromer and Jill. One of the best things we were able to do is include some of our former campers to encourage our girls. They were very gracious! It was a great ending to our program.



Upcoming Programs

- **Sept. 22, 9:30 AM** – "What's Going on with Our Health Care?" See below.
- **Oct. date and time TBA** – Program on Getting Out the Vote
- **Nov. 14, 1:30 PM** – Chris Enss, author of the book *"No Place for a Woman: The Struggle for Suffrage in the Wild West,"* will educate us on Women's suffrage via Zoom while in costume!



September Program: “What’s Going on with Our Health Care?”

**Sept. 22, 9:30-11:00 AM by Zoom [Instructions will be sent 1 week before the meeting.]
Brought to you by the El Dorado Progressives, Health Care Workgroup**

Join us to take a look at what’s going on with our health care:

- In California
- Learn about Expanded and Improved Medicare for All
- Explore some of the alternatives under discussion, including the public option and expanded Medicare Advantage Programs
- Understand how single payer can be paid for and what it will cost you
- Get your questions answered

The program will consist of two speakers and a film.

Speaker #1: Jen Flory, Esq, is an attorney and health care policy advocate who specializes in access to health care for low income Californians. She works at the Western Center for Poverty and the Law in Sacramento. Her passion for health care advocacy stems not just from a desire for social justice, but also from personal experience. As a young adult, Jen was unable to purchase health insurance and went without needed medical care. She has also worked as an immigration attorney. She has been the co-chair of El Dorado Progressives Health Care Workgroup.

Film: The Case for Expanded Medicare for All, featuring Ed Weisbart MD with Physicians for a National Health Plan, Missouri Chapter. This program builds the case for how we must change the financing of our health care through a single payer approach to national health care. He was a family medicine physician, the chief medical officer of Express Scripts and Rx Outreach and a volunteer in a variety of safety-net clinics across the country.

Speaker #2: Maureen Dion-Perry, MPH, has been committed to improving our health care system for the past 45 years. Her training is in Public Health and her community of change was the health care system. She worked for Kaiser Permanente and Marshall Hospital in health education, preventive medicine and quality improvement. Now retired, Maureen continues her work with El Dorado Progressives and was co-chair of the Health Care Work Group and the Western Slope Coalition on Affordable Housing and Homelessness.



VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

According to the El Dorado County Board of Elections, your vote by mail ballot will be mailed to you the week of Oct. 5th. If you have not received yours by Oct. 12, call the elections office at 530-621-7480. From El Dorado Hills, call 916-358-3555 x7480 if you do not receive a ballot.

Fill out your ballot immediately. You can mail your ballot back, or even better, take it to a drop box. There will be multiple drop boxes throughout the county to return your ballot. Here is a link to where they will be:

<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/Elections/Documents/Drop%20Box%20Locations.pdf> In Placerville, take it to the clearly identified ballot box at the Board of Elections located in the parking lot at 2850 Fairlane Ct., Placerville. By voting early, there is no reason your vote won't be counted.

Vote by mail ballots are only sent to registered voters and are a reliable and the safest way to vote during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Do not let anyone tell you differently.**

If you would like to register to vote by mail or to verify that you are registered to vote, go to the El Dorado County Board of Elections website: <https://www.edcgov.us/Government/Elections> There you can also get verification that your ballot has been received and counted by signing up for Mail Ballot Tracker.

If you prefer to vote in person, voting centers will be open throughout the county from Oct. 31 – Nov. 3. Be sure to wear a mask. This link will show you the voting centers locations and the hours they will be open:

<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/Elections/Documents/Vote%20Center%20Locations.pdf>

If you need help with any of this, call Lee Boylan at 916-704-0534.

Public Policy – submitted by Barbara Smiley

AAUW CA Strengthens Commitment to Increasing Equity for Black Women and Girls

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 concrete 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.



DADDY’S SURPRISE – by Betsy Ross Kerr

[Note: We will periodically publish interesting anecdotes from our members.]

My Mom and Dad met around 1918 when he was learning to fly “Jennies” at March Field near Riverside, CA, and she was a teacher at a one-room schoolhouse near Lake Elsinore. The educators and airmen got together for parties, apparently. They married in 1919 and had our family.

Dad was born, poor, in Chicago, was orphaned as a teenager, and moved to live with a foster family in Terry, Montana, where he attended Terry High School until his junior year. He felt he needed to support himself, so he dropped out and got a job ‘riding fences’ in that dry sheep country with his chaps, cowboy hat and horse named “Star.” After three years of that very lonely job, the high school principal convinced him to return, sleep in the school basement if need be, and get his diploma. There were nine in his senior class.

In 2001, Dick and I took our RV on a nine-month trip around the U.S. and Canada and stopped in Terry (pop. 500) to see where my Dad had lived. We stopped at the post office to pick up our

General Delivery mail that my daughter forwarded to us periodically, to be quizzed by the Lady Clerk.

“Who are you?!” “Why are you in Terry?!”

I explained.

Coincidentally, Lady Clerk also worked at the local museum and often did ancestral research for escaped families. She asked me Dad’s name.

“Orrin Ross,” I said, and her jaw dropped.

Wha’?

She had been researching an entirely different Ross family, but of course read newspaper articles and school documents about Orrin, also.

She said, “He was married, you know.”

Wha’? No!

It was amazing that she would remember details about a stranger, but she commenced to reel off an unbelievable tale. She had read old school documents and local newspaper accounts dating about 1915, 1916. My Dad was seeing a young sophomore, Coza Shaw, age 17. One news article said that soon after H.S. graduation, Orrin and Coza “suddenly got married.” Lady Clerk thinks they went to Boise to visit her uncle on a honeymoon.

Six weeks later, she died.

The edition of the local paper that would have detailed this tragedy was not in the museum. Lady Clerk went on to say that Coza’s gravestone is in the cemetery three miles west of town. Sure enough, we found a large, elaborate marble plaque: “Coza Shaw Ross: My Love, My Life, My Bride”.

Surprise!

Did my mother, Florence, know about Coza?

I’ll never know.

Editor’s note: If you have an interesting story to tell, get in touch with me at leeboylan46@gmail.com. I’ll include one per issue.

Interest Groups

All will follow state guidelines for meeting with masks and social distances as long as required.

Play Reading Group: Barbara Reider leader [530-677-0627] – 1st Monday at 9 a.m.

Great Discussions: Patricia Garon leader [530-647-2736, pacbgaron423@gmail.com] – 2nd Thursday at 10 a.m.

Art Group: Hannah Jacobsen leader [530-409-3252, gardengma10@yahoo.com]: call Hannah for information. – 4th Monday at 10 a.m.

Out to Lunch Bunch: Sara Edwards leader [530-417-7138, sara.leeed@gmail.com] – 3rd Thursday at noon

- Tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, Sept. 17**, at noon, we'll have box lunches from Allez and meet somewhere, like a park or in front of the library under shade trees to eat and visit.
- On **Thursday, October 16**, we'll also meet at noon outside somewhere. Details TBA. Regular members of OTLB will be contacted. Those new and wishing to join us, please call Sara at (530) 417-7138.

2nd Tuesday Book Club: Betty Hamilton leader [530-676-2411, bettyannhamilton@att.net]

- **Sept. 8**, 10 AM (Special Time) Book: "Season of the Witch" by David Talbot
Hostess: Betty Hamilton, 3033 Twin Oaks Rd., Cameron Park – in back yard
 - **Oct. 8**, 1:00 PM Book: "Educated" by Tara Westover [location TBD]
- Call Betty Hamilton with any questions: (530) 676-2411.

4th Wednesday Book Club: Janet Walker leader [530-409-0192, bipwalker@comcast.net]

- **Sept. 23**, 1:00 PM. We will meet via Zoom. Sharon Lawrence will train anyone who needs help. We will discuss books we have been reading the last few months. RSVP to Janet Walker to receive details on how to join the meeting.

Nonfiction Book Club: Patricia Garon [530-647-2736, pacbgaron423@gmail.com]

1st Thursday, 10 AM

New group: Each person reports on a nonfiction book she has read. Opportunity to learn about interesting books. Call Patricia if interested in joining.

Bridge Groups: Jan Ives leader [530-295-8170, janives@sbcglobal.net].

On hiatus due to COVID-19.

Evening Art or Play Groups: contact Melanie Hale [530-306-6604, gloverhale@sbcglobal.net] if interested.