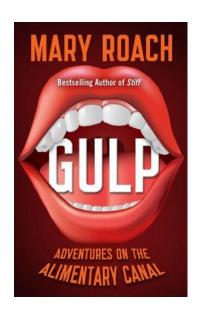


THE VIEW FROM SAN RAMON

Volume 30, Number 3 November 2013

Wednesday, November 20 7:30 PM



Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center 10550 Albion Road, San Ramon

Mandatory RSVP to Margie Goldware

(See page 4 for details)

AAUW MISSION AND DIVERSITY STATEMENTS

American Association of University Women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

2013-2014 Board

PRESIDENT Cindy Alpert

IMMEDIATE PAST CO-PRESIDENTS
Stella Hadjimarkos, Betsy Hoffmann

PRESIDENT ELECT ~ OPEN ~

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, PROGRAM Renae Buckser, Margie Goldware

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, MEMBERSHIP Millie Kessler, Isabel Lau

VICE PRESIDENT, AAUW FUNDS Jeanne Benedetti

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP Julie Gin, Susan Walker-Christensen

RECORDING SECRETARY Kandy Fitch

VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE Claire Mailhiot

AAUW San Ramon Information

Websites:

Branch Website: http://www.sanramon-ca.aauw.net

WebMaster: Isabel Lau

Association website: www.aauw.org
CA website: www.aauw-ca.org
Address: San Ramon AAUW

P.O. Box 336, San Ramon, CA 94583

Email: aauwsr@gmail.com

Facebook: San Ramon University Women/AAUW

Appointed Officers & Standing Committees

ART & WIND FESTIVAL CHAIR
Debra Marconi

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Lois Kamoroff

HOSPITALITY/FELLOWSHIP COORDINATOR
Betsy Hoffmann

NEWSLETTER

Marsha Froines, Carol Lombardi

PUBLIC POLICY

Susan Beyerle

PUBLICITY ~ OPEN ~

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Sydney Allison, Sally Blackwell, Pat Campbell, Stephany Gooch, Sally Scholl

TECH TREK COORDINATORS

Marsha Froines

~ CO-COORDINATOR POSITION OPEN ~

TELEPHONE TREE

Renee Coles, Lois Kamoroff

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR ~ OPEN ~

MORE OPEN POSITIONS:

BYLAWS/BRANCH POLICY COMMUNITY & INTERNATIONAL DIVERSITY EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE

~ (Contact Cindy Alpert for information.) ~

President's Message

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Hanukkah!

It is hard to believe November has arrived. The days are getting shorter and the weather is getting cooler. It is a good time to think about the good in our lives. I would like to acknowledge and recognize some people in our branch who contribute to our success.

Many thanks to Susan Beyerle, Isabel Lau, and Margie Goldware for planning Candidates' Night held at the end of September. Through their efforts, our branch partnered with League of Women Voters and San Ramon Chamber of Commerce to sponsor the event. All four candidates attended and answered some tough questions. The library room was full, and the event received many good remarks. I saw a number of branch members who helped set up and clean up—thank you to those who came early and stayed late to help.

I want to **thank Jeanne Benedetti** for her time and energy to host the **AAUW Funds Fiesta Fundraiser**. It was a fun evening with good food, good drinks, and good fellowship. Drawings were held for the beautiful gift baskets Jeanne donated. Many thanks to all who attended and helped make it a fun evening. Please see Jeanne's article for a recap of the event.

Thank you to Margie Goldware, Renae Buckser, and Nancy Kreiser for coordinating our November program. This is sure to be an interesting and educational evening as we hear Mary Roach speak about her book, *Gulp:* Adventures on the Alimentary Canal. This program is a joint effort between our branch and the San Ramon Library. Thanks to those who reserved tickets for our members and guests. Please see the program article for more details.

If you have your **December** calendar available, please save the date for the **Annual Silent Auction & Holiday Boutique Gala** on **December 5** at the San Ramon Community Center. This event is another fun event that raises funds for scholarships given to high school and college students. I really appreciate the time and energy this committee gives to make this event so successful—**Julie Gin, Susan Walker-Christensen, Sydney Allison, Sally Blackwell, Pat Campbell, Stephany Gooch, Millie Kessler, Pauline Nolte, and Sally Scholl**. This is a very hardworking committee that finds great items for the auction. It is a great way to start your holiday shopping,

In addition to the auction, I want to **thank the Scholarship committee** for their efforts in selecting our scholarship winners. We ended our membership brunch (held in September) with the presentation of a \$1,000 scholarship to Akina Langston, a well deserving student

attending CSU East Bay. Akina was overwhelmed by the generosity of our branch when she was presented with gift baskets filled with many beautiful and useful items for her home and herself. Thanks to **Pat Campbell** for putting the gift baskets together and **thank you to all the members** who generously contributed donations to the baskets. Recognizing these hardworking young women is one of the many wonderful things we do in support of our mission.

Finally, please take time during this very busy season to thank your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and service providers—anyone who helps make your life a brighter place. It really is the small ways we acknowledge those around us that makes the biggest difference in peoples' lives.

Thanks to all of you for helping make our organization a fantastic group to represent.

Cindy Alpert, President

Happy November Birthdays

Carolyn Fishel	11/05
Tracey Casey	11/06
Sydney Allison	11/09
Harry Sachs	11/10
Carol Callaway	11/16
Pauline Nolte	11/16
Linda Louie	11/21

"No matter how plain a woman may be, if truth and honesty are written across her face, she will be beautiful."

—Eleanor Roosevelt



Program

Danville-San Ramon City Read Program Featuring Best-selling Author Mary Roach Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal



Date: Wednesday, November 20

Time: 7:30 PM

Where: Dougherty Valley Performing

Arts Center

10550 Albion Road, San Ramon

As part of the Danville–San Ramon City Read program, best-selling author Mary Roach will discuss her recent book, *Gulp: Adventures on the Alimentary Canal*, on Wednesday evening, November 20, at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center. Ms. Roach has written several books and many articles on topics related to the human body. Her 2003 book, *Stiff*, concerned human cadavers. Her 2008 book, *Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex*, discussed human sexuality. She has also published *Packing for Mars*, a book about interplanetary space flight and planet Earth. When interviewed on NPR, Ms. Roach said that she likes her books "to have a little science, a little history, a little humor—and something gross." If you haven't read *Gulp* yet, the library has several copies available for check out.

Since we are going to hear about digestion, let's meet for a no-host dinner at The Hop Yard Alehouse & Grill in the Marketplace before seeing Ms. Roach. Please arrive at the restaurant by 6:00 PM to order your meal because we need to head for the Performing Arts Center by 7:00 PM.

Please RSVP to Margie Goldware if you plan to come to dinner and/or the author's talk. Margie needs a count to reserve tables at the restaurant.

Margie has tickets for the City Read event to hear the speaker. There is no charge for tickets and there is open

seating. Tickets will be distributed at dinner and next to the box office at 7:15 on November 20. Be sure to let Margie know how many tickets you would like to reserve. Your friends and family are welcome.

Coming in January!

On Saturday, January 18 at 2:00 PM, Beth Greer aka Supernatural Mom will present "Healthy Living in a Toxic World" at the San Ramon Library Community Room.

Please note these events on your calendars and bring your prospective members, other friends, and family with you! All programs are free of charge and open to the public.

Margie Goldware, Program Co-Vice President with Renae Buckser

GARAGE SALE PENDING!

Save Your "Junk"! Volunteer Driveway Needed!



We're bringing back the garage sale fundraiser to supplement the ice cream sale to increase our branch income! The funds raised will be used for various expenses in support of our mission.

The garage sale will be in conjunction with the Bollinger Hills Homeowners' Association community garage sale in early April 2014.

We also need a member who lives in the Bollinger Hills development to volunteer their driveway on the day of the sale. Hopefully, someone who lives in this development has a fairly flat driveway that they would be willing to let us borrow for one day.

Please contact any board member if you are that willing and generous member!

Thank you,

Your San Ramon AAUW Board of Directors

Membership

Membership Matters

We can't believe it is almost November and our branch events are well underway. Thank you to all our members, new and renewed! We are over 100 members strong. Your contributions are the key to the success of our mission.

We had success, and some minor glitches, with the online renewal process through the National AAUW website, but most found it quick and easy. We encourage you to renew online next time. Also, every member should have already received the 2013/14 Member Directory. If you experience any issues, we are here to help.

Mark Your Calendars! Thursday, November 7 5:30–7:30 PM Wine and Cheese Reception



We want to *formally* welcome our newest members with an *informal* Wine and Cheese Reception at the home of Millie Kessler in San Ramon.

Everyone is welcome to mingle and chat, get to know members, sip some California wine, and be thankful for the empowered women we represent! Please come—and bring a friend!

As always, member recruitment is ongoing. Invite friends to our events, talk up the work of AAUW, and share with them why you joined AAUW. Continue to provide us with names and contact information, and we will assist you by sending out invitations to programs.

And a reminder again to keep us updated with any changes to your contact information so you don't miss out on any branch events.

Millie Kessler and Isabel Lau, Membership Co-Vice Presidents

AAUW Funds

Another Successful Fiesta Party

I want to give a big THANK YOU for all of your generous donations. Our annual Fiesta Party fundraiser, benefiting AAUW Funds, was once again a huge success and brought in more than \$1,200. Every dollar goes to continue funding of programs and issues important to the AAUW mission.

Legal Advocacy Fund



Recess Appointments

Another Supreme Court season is upon us! The Court has a pretty decent lineup of labor law cases this year. In a case that could impact the President's recess-appointment authority, the Supreme Court will hear argument in December in *NLRB v Noel Canning*. The case will address whether President Obama's appointments to the NLRB were constitutional. The questions presented to the court are:

- Whether the President's recess-appointment power may be exercised during a recess that occurs within a session of the Senate, or is instead limited to recesses that occur between enumerated sessions of the Senate; and
- 2. Whether the President's recess-appointment power may be exercised to fill vacancies that exist during a recess, or is instead limited to vacancies that first arose during that recess.

Jeanne Benedetti, AAUW Funds Vice-President



Local Scholarship



Silent Auction & Holiday Boutique Gala!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Silent Auction & Holiday Boutique Gala on Thursday, December 5 at the San Ramon Community Center Terrace Room from 7:00–8:30 PM. This is our major fundraiser to raise scholarship funds for local high school students and Renaissance Scholars at CSU East Bay.

Close to 100 great items have been donated to our auction from local businesses in San Ramon, Danville, Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore. Look for the list of donated items that will be sent via e-mail before the auction for your perusal. You can plan ahead to bid on items you're interested in. Here are just a few items you can bid on: gift certificates to Cheesecake Factory, Bridges, The Brass Door, Chow Restaurant, Los Panchos, Peet's Coffee & Tea; two tickets to Role Players Ensemble; Bay Area Airplane Ride offered by John Youngblood; four hours of organizing by Joy Perkins of Omnibus Organizing; gift certificate to Ma Jolie; four tickets to Blackhawk Auto Museum; golf outing for four at Crow Canyon Country Club; and much more.

The drawings for the theme gift baskets will begin at 7:20 PM. Come at 7:00 to look at the beautiful baskets as well as all of the other auction items. Two AAUW members will be displaying and selling their unique crafts. It will be a fun evening! Bring a friend or two with you and, of course, your checkbook!

Renaissance Scholar Gift Box Update

Our Renaissance Scholar, Akina Langston, was very happy and appreciative of the gifts she received at the brunch. A special thank you to our members for their generous support in filling the gift baskets with items that Akina could use. She received two Sterilite storage boxes with hanging files filled with a comforter set and sheets, a blanket, throw blanket, massage money, two sets of towels (one white and one beige), four Safeway gift cards, two pampering sets of hand and body lotions, a Starbucks gift card, two Target gift cards, a Kohl's gift card, an Arco gas card, and a Shell gas card. Your generous help will make a big a difference in Akina's life this year. Thank you again, everyone!

Build-A-Basket (With or Without a Bear!)



We will be featuring our wonderful themed gift baskets again at our annual Silent Auction & Holiday Boutique Gala on Thursday, December 5. The drawings for these fun packed baskets have been a popular feature at past events and have generated substantial money for scholarships.

All of our members are invited to "build a basket" to help with this fundraiser. We are aiming for 8 to 10 baskets this year (they do not have to be large). We have received a donation of several medium-size baskets for anyone who needs one...but you don't have to use a traditional basket. Think outside the box—you could use a tray or platter, a canvas bag, or a bowl!

Please consider combining ideas with a friend, collaborating with other members, or gathering materials in your interest group. If you wish, we will be happy to help "finish" the basket for you. What a wonderful opportunity to exercise your creativity and help with a worthy cause!

You might explore themes like:

- Items to have on hand while watching dad's favorite sports shows
- Spa pampering items for busy moms (think daughters and daughters-in-law)
- Specialty appetizer food items for those unexpected holiday visitors
- Little kitchen utensils that we often don't take the opportunity to purchase
- A children's basket (newborn baby, christening, first birthday, games/toys, etc.)

Together we can raise the money we need for the support of our high school seniors and Renaissance Scholars. Thank you!

Contributed by Pat Campbell

Julie Gin, Local Scholarship Co-Vice President with Susan Walker-Christensen

Local Scholarship Committee: Sydney Allison, Sally Blackwell, Pat Campbell, Stephanie Gooch, Millie Kessler, Pauline Nolte, and Sally Scholl

Public Policy



Democracy Begins at Home

Do you recall that old bumper sticker "Think Globally, Act Locally"? It's time to look to our own communities and carefully commit to the people who plan and run our local governments. USA begins on Main Street, in cities big and small, rich or poor. At a time when the voice of the people can be blocked or obscured at the national level by a government shutdown like the one we endured in October, your vote still speaks volumes in your hometown—but you must cast it. Please, mark your calendars. The next Election Day is November 5.

Obama Nominates Woman to Lead Federal Reserve

Janet Yellen has been nominated by the President to lead the U.S. Federal Reserve. If confirmed by the Senate, Yellen would be the first woman to serve in this role and is one of the most qualified nominees for the position. She currently serves as vice chair of the Federal Reserve and has previously headed the San Francisco Federal Reserve and the Council of Economic Advisors.

AAUW Leans In on Government Shutdown

After the federal judiciary announced that it would have to cut back court operations after October 17 if the shutdown persists, citizens were outraged to learn that families of fallen soldiers would be unable to receive death benefits due to the shutdown. After private donors offered to pay the death benefits to families—and hundreds of people signed an AAUW petition on the issue—the House and Senate passed legislation to reinstate the payments, and President Obama signed the legislation into law.

CA Governor Signs AAUW-Supported Bills

The hard work of AAUW-California paid off when Governor Jerry Brown signed two of the bills they supported. The first bill, SB 770, expands the definition of family for whom a worker can take paid leave to include a seriously ill sibling, grandparent, grandchild, or parent-in-law. The second bill, SB 138, protects the personal and sensitive health information of individuals covered under another person's health insurance policy like a partner, spouse, or parent.

AAUW Executive Director Speaks Out in TPM

Linda Hallman published an op-ed on October 2 in *Talking Points Memo* about the work that still needs to be done to decrease the 23 percent gender pay gap.

Health Care Reform Is Happening

October 1, 2013 was the first day of open enrollment under the Affordable Care Act. People can now begin to enroll in health insurance through the state exchanges, with coverage beginning January 1, 2014. As an organization, AAUW believes that everyone deserves access to quality, affordable, and accessible health care. With the launch of open enrollment under the ACA, more women and their families than ever before will have access to that right.

The House of Representatives Pulls National Science Laureate Bill

The bill would have established a science laureate to serve as a role model and help to educate and inspire our next generation—including young girls—to pursue careers in STEM fields. Read more on AAUW's blog.

"Beijing Plus 20" Hillary Clinton's New Foundation Initiative

At the annual Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) meeting at the end of September, Clinton introduced an initiative that will review the progress of women's rights worldwide and encourage the full and equal participation of women. As a Strategic Partner of CGI, AAUW provides a gender lens for key issues facing women and girls around the world.

Susan Beyerle, Public Policy Chair

Money Matters



Last month I talked about bull and bear markets, as well as what type of returns you might expect from investing in stocks. This month we're going to discuss asset allocation.

What Is Asset Allocation?

The idea behind asset allocation is that because not all investments are alike, you can balance risk and return in your portfolio by spreading your investment dollars among different types of assets such as stocks, bonds, and cash alternatives. It doesn't guarantee a profit or ensure against a loss, of course, but it can help you manage the level and type of risk you face.

Think of asset allocation as a balanced diet for your investments. You want a proper amount of protein, vegetables, fruit, grains, and maybe even a little dessert. Like a balanced diet, you shouldn't have all stocks, or all bonds, or all cash. The proper amount of the different investments that will work best for you will depend on your age, how comfortable (or uncomfortable) you are with account value fluctuations, your time frame, your financial needs, and your experience.

Over my lifetime I have had different eating habits depending on my dietary goal at the time, just like investing changes for most people over time. For instance, when I was pregnant with my twin boys, I was told to eat 140 grams of protein per day! Now I eat very differently since my goal is to simply maintain my weight. My husband and I invest in a more conservative fashion for my teenagers' college needs, as those funds will be needed relatively soon, versus our retirement needs, 20 or so years away.

Many people think risk is only about account fluctuation, but I would like to point out that for many people, risk is more about the possibility of running out of money in retirement. If you don't want any account fluctuation, you may think that putting your money in a bank is a good solution. However, a quick search on the web tells me you'll get about 0.25% for a one-year certificate of deposit (CD). The current inflation rate is 1.5% as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on September 17, 2013, so with the CD you're doing what I call "losing money safely."

There is no account value fluctuation, but each year your money buys just a little less gasoline, food, and electricity. After 10 or more years, it can really start to add up. Going back to the balanced diet analogy, you can't just eat bread morning, noon, and night.

A balanced diet of food and investments may help keep you on a healthier and wealthier path!

Please e-mail your financial questions to me at diane@oaktreewealth.com. Your personal information will be kept confidential. Would you like to learn

more? Like us on Facebook by clicking here:



The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. To determine which investment(s) my be appropriate for you, consult your financial advisor prior to investing.

Certificates of Deposit are FDIC insured and offer a fixed rate of return.

Diane L. Woodward, CFP®, RICP®

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Interest Groups

GAME NIGHT First Saturday of Month

Saturday, November 2; 7:30 PM

Hostess: Mary Venkat

If you want to play or if you can host, contact Lucy Weed

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LUNCH BUNCH First Tuesday

Tuesday, November 5; 11:30 AM

Join us for lunch and conversation at Max's Diner

277-9300

2015 Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon

Marsha Froines

Marsha Froines

Marsha Froines

Marsha Froines

Marsha Froines

Marsha Hade, San Ramon

Marsha Froines

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CHINESE MAH JONG First Tuesday and Third Thursday

Tuesday, November 5; 7:00 PM

Hostess: Julie Gin

Thursday, November 21; 7:00 PM

Faye Isaacson

Please RSVP to the hostess. If you have questions about this group, contact Beth Allen





Interest Groups

WALKING GROUP

Saturday, November 9; 9:00 AM

Meet at the Bollinger Park and Ride at 9:00 AM to carpool to Martinez Regional Shoreline for a one-mile loop followed by a walk in downtown ending with lunch. Easy. Estimated end of hike: about 1:30. Let us know you are coming, and we will wait for you.

Diane Griffiths Lois Kamoroff

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DAYTIMERS

Thursday, November 14, 9:30 AM-4:00-ish

Photography Exhibit

Cantor Museum, Stanford University

This exhibit features more than 100 intellectually challenging and aesthetically compelling photographs, installations, and videos produced over three decades by acclaimed African-American artist Carrie Mae Weems (recently named a MacArthur Fellow). We'll depart San Ramon CVS/Marketplace by car (drivers needed) at 9:30 AM in time for an early lunch at the museum cafe and a docent-led tour at 12:15 PM. We'll departing the Cantor about 2:30 PM. Museum admission is free, but parking in lots near museum is \$12 per day (metered parking, \$1.50/hour, is limited to 2 hours). For more info, visit www.museum.stanford.edu

Coordinator: Elaine Baldwin

If you would like to receive Daytimers e-mails, contact Chris White



Interest Groups

READING SOCIETY Third Monday

Monday, November 18; 7:00 PM

Marielle Boortz will review *The Book of Air and Shadows*, by Michael Gruber.

Hostess: Chris White

Questions? Contact Cheri Ng

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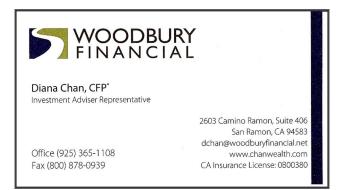
TUESDAY NIGHT BRIDGE Third Tuesday

Tuesday, November 19, 7:00-10:00 PM

Hostess:

Mercedes Daggett

RSVP required: Call hostess as soon as possible to let hostess know if you are playing **or not**. Ouestions? Contact Chris White





Interest Groups

FOURTH (4TH) FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF)

Friday, November 22

Laurie Dennen is the Organizer. Watch for specific information from Laurie. Her e-mail is

If you would like to receive FFF e-mails, please contact Chris White

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CORK 'N' FORK

Save the date for our Annual Branch Holiday Brunch, December 8!

More information will be in the December newsletter. If you'd like to participate in this group or help organize an event, contact

Janice Colby

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TRAVEL GROUP

Save the Dates!

Please join us for our next Travel Group events:

Saturday, January 11, 2014; 7:30 PM

Sally Scholl will present an enlightening program based on her recent trip to Cambodia and Bangkok.

Saturday, April 12, 2014; 7:30 PM

Several presenters will share their adventures on European river cruises.

Travel Group programs are open to AAUW members, their spouses, friends and significant others. We'd love to see you at our events this year! Because refreshments are served at our events, please respond positively to the event's hostess if you can attend.

Renae Buckser Anne Hayden

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WANNA GO?

Contact Marsha if you would like to do something with someone else. She will e-mail the other members to find out if someone wants to join you.

If you're interested, contact Marsha Froines

NOVEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 7:30 PM Game Night Mary Venkat
3	4	5 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Marsha Froines 7:00 PM Mah Jong Julie Gin	6	7 5:30 PM New Member Social Millie Kessler	8	9 9:00 AM Walking Group Diane Griffith
10	11	12 5:00 PM Board Meeting Cindy Alpert	13	14 9:00 AM Daytimers to Cantor Museum Elaine Baldwin	15 Newsletter Deadline	16
17	18 7:00 PM Reading Society Chris White	19 7:00 PM Bridge Mercedes Daggett	20 7:30 PM City Read Program Margie Goldware	21 7:00 PM Mah Jong Faye Isaacson	Fourth Friday Flicks Laurie Dennen	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SNIPPETS

If you have a Snippet item (family events, career changes, etc.) that you would like to share with branch members, please contact Marsha Froines. **This column depends on member contributions**.

Save the Dates

2013:

Thursday, December 5: Silent Auction & Holiday Boutique Gala

Saturday, December 7: Daytimers Holiday Tea at Dublin Heritage Center

Sunday, December 8: Holiday Brunch at Jeanne Benedetti's house

2014:

Saturday, January 11; 7:30 PM: Travel Group presents Sally Scholl's trip to Cambodia and Bangkok.

Saturday, January 18; 2:00 PM: Program featuring Beth Greer at SRCC

Saturday, April 12; 7:30 PM: Travel Group presents several adventures on European river cruises.

April 11-13: AAUW-CA Convention, Los Angeles, CA