



# THE VIEW

# FROM SAN RAMON

Volume 31, Number 4

December 2014

## *Silent Auction Gala & Holiday Boutique*

*Thursday, December 4*

*7:00–8:30 PM*

*San Ramon Community Center Terrace Room  
12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon*

*Enjoy Wine, Appetizers, Cider, Coffee & Tea, Desserts*



*Start your holiday shopping while  
supporting a great cause!*

*Bring friends and family!*



### **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.

## 2014–2015 Board of Directors

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### VP AAUW FUNDS

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### TECH TREK

Jeanne Benedetti

Debra Marconi

### TELEPHONE TREE

Renee Coles

Lois Kamoroff

## AAUW San Ramon Information

### **Websites:**

Branch Website: [www.sanramon-ca.aauw.net](http://www.sanramon-ca.aauw.net)

Webmaster: Isabel Lau

Association website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

CA State website: [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)

### **Branch mailing address:**

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

### **Branch email address:**

[aauwsr@gmail.com](mailto:aauwsr@gmail.com)

### **Facebook:**

San Ramon University Women/AAUW

## President's Pen

Welcome to December!

The month starts with our key fundraiser supporting local scholarships. The annual **Silent Auction Gala & Holiday Boutique** will be held on **December 4 at the San Ramon Community Center**. Local businesses and AAUW members have donated goods that will be available for auction. The proceeds go toward funding the scholarships we award to local high school seniors and participants in the Renaissance Scholar program at CSU East Bay. Please invite your friends and family to attend—it is a great way to kick off the holiday season and also contribute to a very worthwhile cause. I hope to see you at the event.

Our **Tech Trek** committee has begun the process of selecting middle school students to send to camp in June 2015. They are planning a fundraiser to fund camp scholarships so please look for future announcements with more information. Please **reach out to Debra Marconi or Jeanne Benedetti if you would like to help** on their committee. **Many thanks to Jeanne** for her efforts in securing a grant from Lawrence Livermore Lab. Through her efforts, we have received numerous grants that go toward the cost of sending girls to camp.

Are you interested in developing your **leadership skills** or contributing to the success of our branch? We are looking for people to **fill Board of Director positions for our next fiscal year (2015–2016)**. Terms run from July 1 through June 30. AAUW-CA provides training for all leadership positions through online presentations and through in-person seminars. Current leaders mentor and support the new leaders. It is a great opportunity to learn more about AAUW and support our branch in meeting our mission. Please consider sharing your time and talent with the branch!

I wish all my best to you and your family during the upcoming holiday season. Please remember to take time for one of the most important gifts in this world—YOU. Take a few minutes to reflect on all the special talents you possess and how you make the world around you a better place. I appreciate the time, energy, and dedication of so many people who continue to help make our branch fun and successful.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Cindy Alpert  
President

## Program



### Silent Auction Gala & Holiday Boutique Thursday, December 4 7:00–8:30 PM San Ramon Community Center Terrace Room

Come enjoy appetizers, desserts, and beverages while starting your holiday shopping to pamper yourself and friends as well as supporting the Scholarship Committee's effort to raise funds for our branch's 2015 scholarships!

See page 4 for complete details.

### Coming in January!

#### Member Social Date, Time TBD

Welcome the new year by mingling and socializing with your AAUW friends while enjoying a glass of wine and appetizers. Bring a friend that you think might enjoy being a member of our branch. Check the January newsletter for details.

#### Saturday, January 31, 2015 2:00–4:00 PM *Ivory Tower*

*Ivory Tower* is an important documentary film that examines the high cost of higher education. As tuition rates spiral upward and student debt passes \$1 trillion, this film dares to ask: Is college worth the cost? From the halls of Harvard, to public colleges in financial crisis, to Silicon Valley, filmmaker Andrew Rossi assembles an urgent portrait of a great American institution at the breaking point. The film will be followed by a group discussion.

Margie Goldware  
Vice President, Program

*Happy Holidays!*

## Local Scholarship



### **Silent Auction Gala & Holiday Boutique!** **Thursday, December 4** **7:00–8:30 PM** **San Ramon Community Center** **Terrace Room**

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Silent Auction Gala & Holiday Boutique on Thursday, December 4 at the San Ramon Community Center Terrace Room. This is our major fundraiser to raise money for local high school girls and Renaissance Scholars at CSU East Bay. Please respond to the e-vite invitation so we have an idea of how many will attend this event.

Over 100 items have been donated from local businesses. Look for the list of donated items, which 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 a few examples: gift certificates to Elephant Bar, basket of muffins from Mimi's Cafe, gift certificate for Forbes Mill Steakhouse, tour and wine tasting for eight at Concannon Vineyards, golf outing for four including carts at Bridges, tickets to Blackhawk Museum, Trader Joe's bag filled with Italian products, coffee from Starbucks, and much more.

This year, we're featuring a table with delicious baked desserts from local bakeries for the holidays. You can bid on tantalizing cakes, cookies, and cupcakes that you can take home that night and serve over the weekend.

Beautiful items will be sold by three of our AAUW members. Look for original jewelry designed by Victoria Bissell, unique gourd items from Pauline Nolte, and wine bags by Sydney Allison.

The drawings for the themed baskets will begin at 7:25 PM. Come early to look at the beautiful baskets donated by the interest groups, our AAUW members, and friends as well as all of the other auction items. It will be an enjoyable evening! Don't forget to bring your checkbook and a friend or two with you!

### **Nickels for Non-Profit** **Local Scholarship Fundraiser** **November 17–January 18**

Local Scholarship is delighted to announce that our San Ramon Branch has been selected to participate in Whole Foods' Nickels for Non-Profit program beginning November 17, 2014 and running through January 18, 2015.

This means that Whole Foods is partnering with our branch at their registers. Customers who bring their own bags are given the option of taking a five-cent (5¢) discount for each bag or donating the 5¢ to a non-profit—which in this case would be our San Ramon Branch. Most customers choose to donate to the selected organization.

All nickels donated will go to Local Scholarship. Proceeds will help fund scholarships for the 2015 year. The marketing team leader from Whole Foods indicated that past organizations have received up to (and sometimes more than) \$1,000.

Please take time to shop at Whole Foods during the period noted above. Spread the word to your friends, neighbors, family, and colleagues to shop at Whole Foods and bring their recyclable bags to pack their groceries. Each bag will generate a nickel for Local Scholarship!

Thank you for your support. We'll give you an update at the conclusion of this exciting program in the February newsletter.

### **Renaissance Scholar Update**

Recently, we received a delightful handwritten thank-you note from Jessica Schaffer, one of our Renaissance Scholarship recipients.

Thank you AAUW

I really appreciate all of your hard work and dedication. You guys go above and beyond for all of your programs and I wanted to give you a big thank you. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw my gift basket, but that was not all! I was also provided with two movie tickets! I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate your team.

Jessica Schaffer

Julie Gin and Susan Walker-Christensen  
Co-Vice Presidents, Local Scholarship

## Public Policy



### 2014 Midterm Results in a Nutshell

The November midterm elections produced some good and some not so good news for women and families. It also broke records as the most expensive midterm election in U.S. history and the midterm with the lowest voter turnout since 1942.

On a more positive side, Rep.-elect Alma Adams of North Carolina will become the 100th woman member of the current 113th Congress. **This is the highest number of women in Congress in U.S. history.** In spite of this encouraging benchmark, women will only constitute 20 percent of the 114th Congress. We need to bring it to 50 percent (at least)!

The midterms also brought a shift in the next Senate to 46 Democrats and 53 Republicans, with one contest in Louisiana awaiting a decision from a special runoff election to be held on December 6. The *Washington Post* reported that the overall experience of the incoming Senate will be the lowest it has been since 1989. The numbers in the next House of Representatives were brought to 186 Democrats and 244 Republicans, with five races still undecided at this writing. The Senate GOP caucus, Senate Democratic caucus, and House GOP caucus each held leadership elections for the 114th Congress, which begins in January. Senate Republicans unanimously elected Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky to serve as majority leader, and Senate Democrats elected Nevada Sen. Harry Reid to lead the Senate minority. Senate Democrats also added new members to their leadership team, including Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota. In the House, GOP members re-nominated Ohio Rep. John Boehner to continue serving as Speaker of the House and kept the rest of his leadership team intact; the Speaker position won't become official until a public vote on the House floor in January. Democrats in the House leadership team are also expected to remain unchanged. In a pointed aside, current House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi defended her decision to run again and denounced the sexism implied by people who ask if she's too old for the position: "When was the last time you asked Mitch McConnell... 'Aren't you getting a little old, Mitch?'" she responded. For a more thorough, AAUW-centric take on

the results of the midterms, [read the latest post-election analysis](#) from AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa Maatz.

### Poll Shows Women & Men Agree, Gender Pay Gap Is a Top Problem

A new Gallup poll reported that when asked an open-ended question about the most important issues facing working women in America, both men and women listed equal pay as the top issue. The second most common response from both men and women was a closely related issue: equal opportunity for promotion and advancement and ending gender discrimination. These findings mirror the national focus on equal pay and prove that closing the pay gap and ending gender discrimination is a priority for all Americans, regardless of their gender.

Congress needs to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act! [Urge your senators](#) to support this critical equal pay legislation today!

Susan Beyerle  
Public Policy Chair

## Membership

### Membership Matters!

Everyone should have received the 2014–2015 directory by now. If there are corrections, e-mail me right away. A revised directory with the new information will be sent out after the New Year.

We want to welcome new member Joy Severin. Joy comes to our branch as a dual member with Sonora, CA. Welcome, Joy! Thank you for your support for AAUW. We hope to see you at a branch event very soon.

One of our biggest events of the year is the Silent Auction on December 4 at the San Ramon Community Center. This is a great opportunity to bring friends and family to a branch event where they can meet friendly members, bid on great items, and support our mission. Of course, the membership table will there—those inspired by the event can join on the spot!

Hope to see you soon; and bring a friend!

Millie Kessler  
Co-Vice President, Membership with Arlene Chang

## Tech Trek



On October 27, 2014, the Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS), the contract manager for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, announced the recipients for the 2014 LLNS Community Gift Program totaling \$100,000. LLNS received 89 applications totaling more than \$850,000 in requests. Thirty-seven applications were selected for awards totaling \$100,000 through a committee review process. AAUW San Ramon Branch was awarded \$1,000 in support of our Tech Trek science, technology, engineering, and math (“STEM”) camp for young women in San Ramon.

Bill Goldstein, LLNS president and LLNL director, presented Jeanne Benedetti, Tech Trek co-chair for the AAUW San Ramon Branch, with the award during a reception at the LLNS office in downtown Livermore. “It is an honor to be able to recognize these organizations for the tremendous work they do and the success of their programs,” Goldstein said. “Their commitment to helping our community is sincerely appreciated by the laboratory.”

Jeanne Benedetti  
Tech Trek Co-Chair with Debra Marconi

## Happy December Birthdays

Beth Allen	12/04
Marielle Boortz	12/06
Sherri Hedman	12/08
Kim Giuliano	12/09
Maria Johnson	12/18
Sandra Alex	12/19
Brenda Hill	12/25
Laurie Dennen	12/29
Heidi Yamaguchi	12/29

## AAUW Funds

### LAF Express

*LAF Express* is an e-bulletin designed to keep states and branches informed on the latest activities, deadlines, and programming resources of the Legal Advocacy Fund. To subscribe to *LAF Express*, e-mail [laf@aauw.org](mailto:laf@aauw.org).

### Topics in the Current Issue

#### July 2014: AAUW Members Hear What the Latest Supreme Court Decisions Mean

On July 15, AAUW members from across the country joined LAF staff to discuss the U.S. Supreme Court’s most important cases from this past term. Members heard a breakdown of the *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* [decision](#), which will allow some [corporations](#) to restrict their employees’ contraceptive insurance coverage. The call also reviewed Congress’ attempts to ensure women’s access to affordable contraception. LAF staff and callers also discussed the court’s rulings on abortion clinic buffer zone laws, prayer in local government meetings, and affirmative action restrictions.

If you weren’t able to attend the call, you can listen to a [recording](#). LAF will host a preview call this fall to highlight the cases the Supreme Court will take up in 2015. Stay tuned for more information.

#### Good News for LAF-Supported Plaintiff in Discrimination Case

As you read last month, the Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination (MCAD) recently upheld a ruling in favor of LAF-supported plaintiff [Lulu Sun](#) in her gender and race discrimination case against the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. In May the commission upheld an MCAD hearing officer’s 2011 decision, ordering the university to pay the emotional distress damages award and civil penalty and to conduct anti-discrimination training. The university conceded any further appeal, which means that the MCAD’s ruling in Sun’s favor will stand. We are proud to have supported Sun’s case and congratulate her on this final ruling.

#### Title VII Turns 50

July 2, 2014, marked the 50th anniversary of the [Civil Rights Act of 1964](#). Title VII of the Civil Rights Act makes it illegal for employers to discriminate on the basis of gender or race, among other protected classes. In the last half-century, we have made tremendous progress toward gender equity in the workplace. But this anniversary also provides an opportunity to take stock of places we still lack progress. Find out more about [Title VII](#) and learn [what you can do](#) to help fulfill Title VII’s promise.

## Interest Groups

### LUNCH BUNCH

#### First Tuesday

Tuesday, December 2; 11:30 AM

Welcome in the December holiday season with us at The View Restaurant at the Bridges Golf Club.

9000 S. Gale Ridge Road 735-4253  
San Ramon

Please RSVP to Marsha no later than Sunday, November 30 so she can finalize the reservation on Monday.

Marsha Froines



### CHINESE MAH JONG

#### First Tuesday and Third Thursday

Tuesday, December 2; 7:00 PM

Hostess: Mercedes Daggett

#### Thursday, December 18; 7:00 PM

Hostess: Chris White

Please RSVP to the hostess.

If you have questions about this group, contact Beth Allen



### GAME NIGHT

#### First Saturday of Month

Saturday, December 6; 7:30 PM

Hostess: Mary Venkat

Please contact Mary by calling or e-mailing her to let her know if you will be able to join us.

Questions? Contact Lucy Weed



## Interest Groups

### THE DAYTIME BOOKIES

#### Second Monday

Monday, December 8; 1:00–3:00 PM

We'll discuss *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown.

Hostess: Anna Fehrenbach

If you are interested in the Daytime Bookies Club, contact:

Sandie Alex

dandie03@att.net



### READING SOCIETY

#### Third Monday

Monday, December 15; 7:00 PM

Terry Kalashian will review *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* by Fannie Flag at the home of

Hostess: Fran Bartholomew

If you have questions about this group, contact

Cheri Ng



### THIRD TUESDAY BRIDGE

Tuesday, December 16; 6–10 PM

**\*\*Note Special Time\*\***

Hostess: Fran Bartholomew

RSVP required: Contact hostess as soon as possible to let hostess know if you are playing or not.

Please contact Fran to sign up to bring food to our holiday party. There will be a gift exchange (\$15 limit) for those who wish to participate.

If you have questions or would like to join this group, please contact

Chris White



### WALKING GROUP

No scheduled walk this month.

We'll be back in the New Year!

Diane Griffiths

Lois Kamoroff

## Interest Groups

### FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS

**Friday, December 26**

**\*\*or date chosen by Organizer\*\***

Watch your e-mail for date, location, and time of movie!  
Joy Perkins is the Monthly Organizer.

*OmnibusOrganizing@gmail.com*

On the Fourth Friday of each month, members of this group meet at a theater—location and time to be announced via e-mail—to enjoy a movie picked by the Monthly Organizer. This group is very e-mail-dependent because last-minute changes in location and time may frequently occur. The Organizer will change monthly and will be a volunteer from members of the group. If you would like to receive these e-mails, please contact  
Chris White



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## Interest Groups

### TRAVEL GROUP

Happy Holidays, Travelers! Thanks very much to Mary Venkat for providing us with a fascinating presentation about her trip to the Yasuni Rain Forest in Ecuador in November and for hosting the event in her lovely home.

**Please save the date: January 24, 2015**

Anne and Walt Hayden will make a presentation of small medieval villages and sites showing France's Roman history. 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 if you will be attending.

Renae Buckser  
Anne Hayden





**KELLER WILLIAMS**  
DANVILLE

**Janice Colby**  
GRI, e-PRO, SRES, CDFE

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**DECEMBER 2014**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Marsha Froines	3	4 7:00 PM Silent Auction Gala & Holiday Boutique Julie Gin	5	6 7:30 PM Game Night Mary Venkat
		7:00 PM Mah Jong Mercedes Daggett				
7	8 1:00 PM Daytime Bookies Anna Fehrenbach	9 5:00 PM Board Meeting Cindy Alpert	10	11	12 D-A-WC Holiday Home Tour (see flyer)	13 D-A-WC Holiday Home Tour (see flyer)
14 Newsletter deadline tomorrow	15 7:00 PM Reading Society Fran Bartholomew	16 6:00 PM Bridge Fran Bartholomew	17	18 7:00 PM Mah Jong Chris White	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Fourth Friday Flicks (Note: Date TBA)	27
28	29	30	31 			

**SNIPPETS**

Chris Burchik’s husband, Steve, invites all branch members to a reception for a historical photographic exhibit “An Ordinary Year, An Extraordinary Time,” featuring images of soldiers and villagers in Vietnam in 1968. The reception for the month-long exhibit is on Saturday, **December 6** from **2:00 to 4:00 PM** at the Lindsay Dirx Brown Gallery in the San Ramon Community Center at 12501 Alcosta Blvd.

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 in 2015!**

January: AAUW San Ramon Member Social; date TBD

January 24: Travel Group presents France.

January 27: AAUW IBC Meeting

January 31: AAUW San Ramon/San Ramon Library Program featuring *Ivory Tower* documentary