



Silent Auction Gala

Wednesday, December 2

7:00-8:30 PM

*San Ramon Community Center
Terrace Room*

12501 Alcosta Blvd.

(Between Bollinger Cyn. Rd. and Overlook Dr.)

Enjoy Beverages, Hors d'oeuvres, & Desserts!

Bring Friends & Neighbors!

(See page 5 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.

2015–2016 Board

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AAUW San Ramon Information

Websites:

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

Webmaster: Isabel Lau

Association website: www.aauw.org

CA State website: www.aauw-ca.org

Branch mailing address:

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

Branch email address:

aauwsr@gmail.com

Facebook:

San Ramon University Women/AAUW

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Happy Holidays!

It is hard to believe December is here and we are approaching the end of 2015. Our branch continues to offer many ways to stay involved and support our mission.

Our November program was very informative! Thanks to **Joy Perkins** for sharing many tips on staying organized. And a big thank you to **Chris Burchik**, Program VP, for coordinating the event and providing refreshments. It was a great way to start the holiday season.

Please join us for our important fundraiser supporting local scholarships. The annual **Silent Auction Gala** will be held on **December 2** 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 of 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 contribute to a very worthwhile cause. I hope to see you at the event.

The **AAUW-CA convention** will be held in **San Mateo** on **April 15–17**. This is a great opportunity to learn more about AAUW programs, develop leadership skills, and network with AAUW members from throughout the state. Look for more details in a future *Perspective* (the AAUW-CA) newsletter.

As we approach this busy time of year, please take time to reflect on your special, extraordinary gifts. Gifts come in many forms and are always intended to bring joy. I appreciate the gift of time given by many members in our branch to support our mission. Thanks to your generous gifts, our branch continues to improve the lives of many women and girls.

Have a joyous holiday season and a great start to 2016!

Cindy Alpert
President



Happy Holidays!



The AAUW Fund

Donation Explanations and Opportunities

It's charitable donation time for end-of-the-year tax deductions, and I hope you are considering a gift to the national AAUW Fund campaign. This fund advances AAUW's mission by sustaining many vital programs and activities that respond to and help eradicate the persistent challenges facing women and girls.

The ever-changing names and descriptions of the money collected by the AAUW national office confuse many of us. The new name is easy to remember—The AAUW Fund—as is the new slogan: One AAUW—One Mission—One Fund.

From now on, when you donate to the AAUW Fund, you need to specify whether your donation may be used where it is needed most (unrestricted) or whether you prefer to enhance a specific program (restricted).

Here are some popular choices for restricted donating:

- Legal Advocacy Fund (# 3999)—for legal case support and campus outreach grants;
- Educational Opportunities Fund (#4336)—for Fellowships, Grants and Tech Trek across the U.S. (excluding California Tech Trek);
- Eleanor Roosevelt Fund (#9170)—for conducting research and publishing reports detailing subjects such as the pay gap, sexual harassment at school, and the under-representation of women in STEM careers;
- Leadership Programs Fund (#4339)—for supporting the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, Start Smart salary negotiation workshops, and Elect Her—Campus Women Win;
- Public Policy Fund (#4337)—for supporting government relations, civic engagement, and field organizing.

Donating to the AAUW Fund is easy online using the Member Database on the www.aauw.org national website or you may write a check to AAUW Fund and send it to our branch at P.O. Box 336, San Ramon, CA 94583.

Thank you in advance for your generosity to the many causes supporting women and girls. Please contact me with your questions about this topic.

Margie Goldware
Vice President, AAUW Fund

Program

**December 2; 7:00–8:30 PM
Silent Auction Gala**

Coming in January!

***Hidden in Plain Sight:
Human Trafficking in the Bay Area***

**Thursday, January 21, 2016
7:00–9:00 pm**

**Veterans Memorial Building
400 Hartz Ave, Danville, CA**

**Co-sponsored with the
Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW Branch**

A panel of experts from Contra Costa County and the Bay Area will provide a comprehensive view of this important issue on the local level. Learn what is being done to fight this crime, what local agencies and non-profits are doing to rescue victims, and what you can do to help.

**Recap of November Program
Provided by Joy Perkins, Omnibus Organizing**

For those of you who missed Joy's inspiring, humorous program on helpful tips to organize your life and home in an effort to reduce stress, make everyday life more easy, and enjoy your life more, she has provided these tips.

REDUCE What Comes IN

Websites that help:

<https://www.donotcall.gov/> (reduce time wasting calls)

<https://www.optoutprescreen.com/?rf=t> (avoid credit offers)

<http://www.catalogchoice.org/> (get ONLY catalogs you want)

Pay bills online (bonus: no paper to file!)

Use your Smart phone apps for shopping lists, to-do lists, etc. (e.g., www.groceryiq.com lets you synchronize lists and get coupons).

Don't impulse-buy. Always make a list and keep to it.

RE-USE What You Don't Need

Increase your good karma and donate to a local charity. GOLDEN RULE: "If you wouldn't offer it to a friend, it isn't fit to donate." Follow IRS Guidelines for your deduction and take pics for your records.

For larger items, Freecycle is an easy way to list things. The recipient just comes and picks them up (no money changes hands; you just leave items outside for pick-up).

Re-Cycle What You Can

Waste Management Companies and Counties have resources; check their websites. Contra Costa's is www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/cd/recycle/

Use California Approved e-Waste Collectors. For example, www.eWasteDirect.com.

De-Cluttering Tips

Set reasonable goals—one cupboard at a time.

Use a timer so you don't wander down memory lane.

Have an accountability partner.

Ask for help when you need it.

Be ruthless! If you haven't used it, you don't need it. Is it helpful to YOU (does it support your life right now)? Just because it was expensive, or someone gave it to you, doesn't mean you have to keep it.

Safety Tips

Protect your identity: Shred anything with info like account numbers. Call www.shredthisllc.com to reduce backlog, then use your own shredder daily (and oil it).

Don't hire help you don't know and trust.

When selling, don't give too much information to potential buyers.

Change passwords. Don't use the same one for multiple sites and no pet names or birthdays.

Back up your computer. A remote service can be very inexpensive (e.g., Carbonite is only \$59 per year).

Could neighbors find your emergency contact info in a hurry? Put ICE in your phone and address book and on the door to your fridge.

Please contact me if you have any questions about our programs or if you need help with transportation to attend a program.

Chris Burchik
Vice President, Program

Local Scholarship



Come to the Silent Auction Gala!

Wednesday, December 2
7:00–8:30 PM

San Ramon Community Center
Terrace Room

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Silent Auction Gala! This is our major fundraiser to raise scholarship funds for local high school girls and Renaissance Scholars at CSU East Bay.

One hundred 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 things you're interested in. A few examples of items available are gift certificates to Elephant Bar, Lazy Dog, Café Attila, and Brass Door Restaurant; brunch for two at Faz; a basket of muffins from Mimi's Café; two tickets to *Beach Blanket Babylon*; tour and wine tasting for eight at Paige Mill Winery and a bottle of wine; a Trader Joe's bag filled with Italian products; coffee from Starbucks; and much more.

This year we're featuring delicious baked desserts from local bakeries for the holidays. You can bid on yummy cakes and muffins that you can take home that night.

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. Enjoy some hot cider or wine and tasty treats while you shop! It will be an enjoyable evening! Don't forget to bring your **checkbook** or **cash**, as we do not take credit cards. Invite and bring some friends to enjoy the evening!

Julie Gin

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

Local Scholarship Committee: Sydney Allison,
Sally Blackwell, Pat Campbell, Diane Drain,
Rosanne Fissore, Millie Kessler, and Sally Scholl



11th Annual Holiday Home Tour

Friday, December 11
Saturday, December 12

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Bring your friends and join us for our fabulous Holiday Home Tour. We will showcase five beautiful, festively decorated homes in Danville and San Ramon.

Tickets are \$35 each. A senior discount of \$5 will be offered through Saturday, December 5.

To purchase online: Visit our web site <http://daw-ca.aauw.net/hht2015>.

To purchase via US Mail: Send a check postmarked by December 5 payable to Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW with a self-addressed stamped #10 business size envelope to: AAUW Holiday Home Tour, P.O. Box 996, Alamo, CA 94507.

To purchase in person: Visit East Bay Flower Company, 206 Sycamore Valley Road West, Monday through Saturday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (cash or check only).

Your ticket purchase will help send 12 middle school girls in the Danville, Alamo, and Walnut Creek communities to a one-week Tech Trek math-science camp for girls in a university setting and help fund local women wishing to receive their college education.

Please, no children under 12 or pets. Tour tickets are not tax deductible.

Questions: aauwhht@gmail.com

Membership



Membership Matters

In Memory—Thea Scioscia

We recently learned the sad news that a longtime member of our branch, Thea Scioscia, succumbed to brain cancer on November 10, 2015 after battling the disease for 10 years.

Thea joined AAUW in 2002 and is remembered by those who knew her for her positive, upbeat approach to life's challenges. She served as an enthusiastic volunteer and participant in interest groups for many years, and was known for her willingness to lend a helping hand whenever possible.

Her family has published an inspiring obituary that can be found online at:

- <http://www.traditioncare.com/obituaries/Thea-Scioscia/#!/Obituary>
- <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/contracostatimes/obituary.aspx?n=thea-m-scioscia&pid=176482842&fhid=3251>

A memorial service is being held December 6 at 3:00 PM, at Charlotte Wood Middle School Multi-purpose Room, 600 El Capitan Drive, Danville, where Thea worked as a Resource Teacher.

Our Board of Directors has voted to honor Thea with a \$100 memorial donation to The AAUW Fund on behalf of the AAUW San Ramon Branch. The family has also suggested the following organizations, for those who wish to contribute individually: Charlotte Wood memorial fund, Hospice of the East Bay, Brain Cancer Research, St. Michael Orthodox Church in Concord, or the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Moving On

On another note, some of our other longtime members have made some major life changes.

Arlene Addison recently relocated to Pleasanton.

Kim Giuliano has a new home under construction in Brentwood and expects it will be ready for occupation in January.

Stephany Gooch has moved to Roseville to live near her daughter's family.

Finally, as this is the last newsletter of 2015, I offer everyone my best wishes for a joyous holiday season and hope to see you soon at one of our branch events!

Claire Mailhot
Vice President, Membership

Happy December Birthdays

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

*Remember if people
Talk behind your back,
It only means you are
Two steps ahead.*

Fannie Flagg

Public Policy



An important aspect of AAUW is supporting legislation that positively supports women and girls. AAUW CA developed Public Policy priorities to focus on during the next two years. Members are invited to comment on and support these initiatives. Below are the AAUW CA Public Policy priorities for 2015–2017. If you are interested in following progress on these initiatives, please go to the AAUW CA website (www.aauw-ca.org) and click on the Public Policy link.

AAUW CA Public Policy Action Priorities, 2015–2017

The AAUW CA Public Policy program supports its mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research, and complements the national Public Policy program. AAUWCA's priorities for action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, and strong member support. All members were invited to comment regarding which priorities affecting women and girls AAUW CA should emphasize on legislation during the next two years, and these priorities reflect member comments.

1. To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW CA supports:

- Pay equity, fairness in compensation, and economic justice;
- Equitable access and advancement in employment, including vigorous enforcement of employment antidiscrimination statutes;
- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements and protecting Social Security from privatization or reduction in benefits;
- Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce;
- Strengthening programs, including welfare and career and technical education, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential; and

- Greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance.

2. To support a strong system of high quality public education, AAUW CA advocates:

- Adequate and equitable funding for high quality public education for all students;
- Increased support for programs that break through barriers for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields;
- Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in all levels of education, including vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education;
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and for charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of public schools; and,
- Support and adequate funding for women's and disadvantaged populations' access to higher education, including two-year degree programs.

3. To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW CA supports:

- Choice in the determination of one's reproductive life;
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including bullying and sexual harassment, in homes, schools, workplaces, communities, and the military;
- Increased access to quality, affordable health care and family planning services, including expansion of patient rights;
- Strengthening California programs that improve the lives of children in families living at or below the poverty level;
- Strengthening United Nations programs that address human rights as well as women's and girls' concerns;
- Freedom in definition of family and guarantee of civil rights in all family structures; and
- Vigorous protection of and full access to civil and constitutional rights.

Approved by a vote of the membership in May 2015.

Cindy Alpert
President

Interest Groups

LUNCH BUNCH

First Tuesdays

Tuesday December 1; 11:30 AM

Join us for a delicious lunch and lively conversation! Be sure to notify Marsha on the prior Sunday if you will attend.

Dana's Restaurant & Bar 838-7611
416 Sycamore Valley Road West, Danville
(In The Livery shopping center next to Cold Stone Creamery)

Call Marsha by Sunday, November 29.

If you aren't on the e-mail reminder list, also contact: Marsha Froines



CHINESE MAH JONG

First Tuesdays and Third Thursdays

Tuesday, December 1; 7:00 PM

Linda Louie

•

Thursday, December 17; 7:00 PM

Chris White

Please RSVP to the hostess.

If you have questions about this group, contact Beth Allen



WALKING GROUP

We will be on holiday for December.

See you in January!

Diane Griffiths

Lois Kamoroff



Interest Groups

DAYTIME READERS

****Special Date****

Monday, December 7; 1:00 PM

We are reading *Orphan #8* by Kim van Alkemade. Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't read the book but would like to know if you should give it a try.

Hostess: Anna Fehrenbach

Please let Anna know if you plan to attend.

Happy reading!

Questions? Contact Margo James



GAME NIGHT

First Saturdays

Saturday, December 5; 7:30 PM

Mary Venkat

Please call or e-mail Mary if you can attend.

Questions? Contact Lucy Weed



THIRD TUESDAY BRIDGE

Third Tuesdays

Tuesday, December 15; 6-10 PM

****Holiday Party—\$20 value gift exchange****

Hostess: Fran Bartholomew

RSVP to Fran, please!

Pot Luck: Contact Fran to sign up to bring food.

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

Chris White



Interest Groups

FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF)

****This month, on the Third Friday!****

Friday, December 18

Monthly Organizer: Lois Kamaroff

Contact the Monthly Organizer if you are interested in joining us.

Watch your e-mail for location and time of movie; contact the Monthly Organizer if you are interested in joining us. If you would like to receive these e-mails, please contact: Chris White



THE NIGHT BOOK GROUP


Third Mondays

Monday, December 21; 7:00 PM

Marielle Boortz will review *The Bridge at San Luis Rey*, by Thornton Wilder, at the home of Chris White

Questions? Contact Cheri Ng





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Interest Groups

TRAVEL GROUP

Saturday, January 23, 2016; 7:30 PM

Stella and Evans Hadjimarkos will give us a special presentation about their homeland of Greece. They will be focusing their presentation on interesting places that are off the normal tourist route. This presentation will be held at Anne and Walt Hayden's home in Danville.

March or April, 2016

Anne and Walt Hayden traveled to Iran in April of 2015. The trip was full of interesting ruins, buildings, and artifacts. Please join us for a presentation about this adventure. It will include insights Anne and Walt picked up about Iranians, their economy and culture, and their attitudes toward Westerners. This presentation will be at Anne and Walt's home in Danville. An exact date will be available shortly.

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!

Renae Buckser
Anne Hayden



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CA Insurance Lic. #0785820. Diane is a Registered Representative with and securities and financial planning offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC.

DECEMBER 2015

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Marsha Froines	2 7:00 PM Silent Auction Gala Julie Gin	3	4	5 7:30 PM Game Night Mary Venkat
		7:00 PM Mah Jong Linda Louie				
6	7 1:00 PM Daytime Readers Anna Fehrenbach	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 6:00 PM Bridge Group Holiday Party Fran Bartholomew	16 Oops! Newsletter deadline was yesterday!	17 7:00 PM Mah Jong Chris White	18 Friday Flicks Lois Kamoroff	19
20	21 The Night Book Group Chris White	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Happy New Year!		

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

January 21, 7:00 PM: Human Trafficking Program sponsored by San Ramon and Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek branches
 January 23, 7:30 PM: Travel Group presents Greece