



THE VIEW

FROM SAN RAMON

Volume 32, Number 6

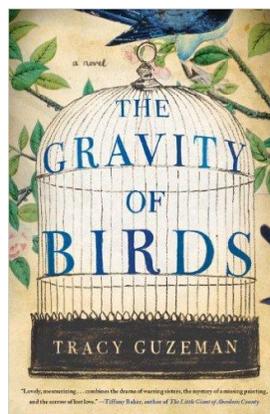
February 2016

AAUW San Ramon Tech Trek Fundraiser Monday, February 15



(See page 5 for details)

Thursday, February 25 at 6:30 PM Featuring Tracy Guzeman, Bay Area Author of *The Gravity of Birds*



(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.

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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:

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President's Pen

Hello!

2016 is off to a busy start!

Thank you to Chris Burchik for her efforts in coordinating the January program with the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch on Human Trafficking. This issue is becoming more prevalent in our community. Please read the article in this newsletter from the AAUW-CA Public Policy directors on this topic. You can take action to fight it. Make a difference, do it now!

I enjoyed seeing a number of members at the Member Social on January 10. **A big thank you goes to Millie Kessler for opening her home to host the event.** Many members contributed food and drink as well—thank you to all of you. It was nice to meet new members and connect with current members.

We will begin the search for new board members in February. The Nominating Committee will be contacting potential candidates to fill open board positions. Many of the positions can be shared—this is a great opportunity to work with an experienced leader and contribute to the growth and continuity of our branch. Leadership training is provided as well. The time commitment is not overwhelming. I encourage you to consider saying yes when asked to serve. If you have questions about any of the positions, you can contact me or the existing board member who holds the position. We are happy to share our insights and knowledge.

Make your dinner reservations NOW for the Gianni's Fundraiser on February 15. Invite friends and family to enjoy a delicious meal at this local restaurant, be entertained by your AAUW servers, and help raise money for Tech Trek sponsorships. Our branch receives a portion of the meal cost as well as all tips. Please see the Tech Trek article on page 5 for more information.

AAUW CA will hold its convention April 15–17 in San Mateo. Since this will be relatively close to us, I encourage you to consider attending one or more days. It is an opportunity to meet other members from across the state, learn about AAUW's top priorities, and attend interesting seminars on various AAUW-related topics. More information will be available through the AAUW CA website (www.aauw-ca.org).

Please read the newsletter to find more information on upcoming events. The next few months are a busy time for us. There are very interesting programs planned as well as various fundraisers. We also begin the process to select our Tech Trek campers and Local Scholarship recipients.

THANK YOU to all who make our branch fun, exciting, informative, and community-focused. We couldn't be successful without you!

Happy February!

Cindy Alpert
President

Happy February Birthdays

Renee Coles	2/03
Carol Lombardi	2/18
Sally Scholl	2/19
Diane Woodward	2/19
Margo James	2/20
Victoria Bissell	2/28



AAUW CA State Convention April 15–17 San Mateo Marriott

Our state convention this year is actually close enough that we can attend at least parts of it without incurring lodging and air fare costs—check out the articles in the latest *California Perspective*.

If you are interested in attending the entire convention, the last day to reserve your spot and obtain a discounted price is **February 26**.

Program

Thursday, February 25 at 6:30 PM

Featuring

Tracy Guzeman, Bay Area Author of
The Gravity of Birds

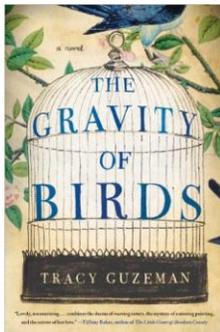


Dougherty Station Library
17017 Bollinger Canyon Road
San Ramon

Program Co-Sponsored by
The San Ramon Library

Please join us for an evening of literary celebration with Tracy Guzeman, an engaging Bay Area author, who will discuss her debut novel, *The Gravity of Birds*.

In addition to being selected as one of Oprah's 18 "Must Read" books, Ms. Guzeman's novel received rave reviews from the San Francisco Chronicle: "If literary fiction is on the verge of extinction, Bay Area writer Tracy Guzeman's debut novel, *The Gravity of Birds*, ought to inspire new hope for an endangered species. With its deft interweaving of psychological complexity and riveting narrative momentum, with its gorgeous prose and poetic justice, Guzeman's book is about sibling rivalry, tragedies and resurrections. And it's irresistibly exquisite."



The **San Ramon Branch of AAUW** and **San Ramon Library** are excited to have this opportunity to welcome Ms. Guzeman and learn more about the background and inspiration of her compelling book, available on Amazon as well as at Barnes & Noble, local bookstores, and your local library.

Plan to come and bring a friend or two to this memorable author event!

January Program Recap

The Human Trafficking Awareness event co-sponsored by our branch and the Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch of AAUW was hugely successful with over 180 people attending. The speakers shared their experiences combatting the growing problem of trafficking and working with survivors. Combining the skills and knowledge of law enforcement with community coalitions has resulted in much good work being done in Contra Costa County to raise public awareness, motivate action, and help eradicate the problem. Working together with Charla Gabert of the DAW branch and our branch members made it a memorable evening. Special thanks go to Claire, Betsy, and Margie for their help.



Left to right: Brian Wo, Co-Founder, Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition; Aron De Ferrari, Deputy DA, Contra Costa County; Carly Devlin, Social Worker, Community Violence Solutions; Alexandra Madsen, Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinator, Zero Tolerance Initiative, Contra Costa County

A flyer from the Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition listing things **we** can do to combat this problem is attached separately to this newsletter. Speaker handouts went quickly, so I will forward them when they become available.

Chris Burchik
Vice President, Program

Tech Trek

The Tech Trek Committee is gearing up for its major fundraiser to sponsor six middle school girls to go to Sonoma State University this coming June for the one-week Tech Trek science and math camp.

We hope many of you can attend this event and invite family, friends, and neighbors.

AAUW San Ramon "Fun"draiser

Monday, February 15



**2065 San Ramon Valley Blvd.
San Ramon**

Family, friends, and neighbors are all invited to a no-host dinner at Gianni's Italian Bistro in San Ramon. The food is delicious and the atmosphere is fun! All tips and 10% of sales will be donated to our San Ramon Branch of AAUW for Tech Trek.

**Dinner seating is between
5:00 PM and 8:00 PM**

RESERVATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED



Call Gianni's at 925-820-6969 or go to opentable.com

The Board of Directors supports this event as a fundraiser for Tech Trek.

*Contact Fran Bartholomew
with questions.*

Thank you!

The AAUW Fund

Save the Date!

Saturday, March 19

Luncheon Program

Featuring

Helen Rocha

Grant Recipient of the AAUW Fund

Please save Saturday, March 19, for a special AAUW program featuring Helen Rocha, recipient of a grant from AAUW Fund that is allowing her to pursue a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering.

Helen will inspire us while we enjoy a delicious lunch at the home of our longtime member and AAUW Fund supporter, Jane Young.

Watch for details in our March newsletter!

Margie Goldware
Vice President, AAUW Fund

Happy Valentine's Day!



Public Policy



This article was submitted by the AAUW CA Public Policy chairs. It is very relevant and timely given our recent program. If you have questions, please let me know.

Cindy Alpert
President

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE MODERN ERA

by Michele St.Clair
Public Policy Director,
Healdsburg Branch Board of Directors
Public Policy Committee of AAUW CA

Human trafficking doesn't affect us, right? So why should we care about something so remote and a problem we can't do anything to stop anyway?

Well, human trafficking is not remote. It's right here in California, in our own neighborhoods. And there *are* things we can do to help curb it.

Based on statistics kept by various organizations, California has a disproportionately large share of this extreme violation of human rights, in spite of a series of laws that the California legislature has passed to try to reduce its incidence.

As globalization erases the borders between countries, the challenges of stopping the flood of human exploitation continue to multiply. Human trafficking has grown to be one of the largest organized criminal activities in the world, second only to drug trafficking. Social scientists estimate that 27 million women, men, and children are victims at any given time. AAUW reports that human trafficking has also emerged in the past decade as one of the fastest-growing criminal activities in the world. And the consequent human suffering is immense.

Traffickers use violence, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to manipulate victims into engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against their will. "Human trafficking is a violation of human rights where an individual is forced or tricked into work and unable to leave for any number of reasons," says Tiffany Williams, advocacy director at the Institute for Policy Studies' Break

the Chain Campaign (www.ips-dc.org). It's important to note that this definition rests on force and coercion, not movement across borders. Indeed, much of human trafficking is done for the purpose of extracting labor services.

Labor-trafficked victims are coerced, but instead of being sexually exploited, victims are abused in a variety of labor settings including domestic work, small businesses, large farms, and factories.

This form of modern-day slavery uses trickery, force, and coercion, and it can be found in our very own neighborhoods. Surprisingly, in bedroom communities some unscrupulous couples keep housekeepers and nannies in modern bondage. Teachers are brought from overseas and forced to sign over 10 percent of their salaries. Undocumented agricultural workers are often taken advantage of by "coyotes" and agribusiness to work long hours for little or no pay. Underage boys and girls are tricked into sex slavery. (In fact, due to their extreme vulnerability, all sex workers under the age of 18 are considered to be trafficking victims.)

Though the epidemic of human trafficking affects people from all backgrounds, social classes, and cultures, it disproportionately affects women and girls who account for 55 percent of forced labor and 75 percent of all trafficked victims around the world.

This is why AAUW has made human trafficking one of the issues it officially works to eliminate.

We as individual AAUW members can help in a number of ways. Inform your friends and family, and your neighbors about the widespread incidence of human trafficking. Be alert to possible instances of labor-trafficking in your community. When meeting with elected officials, inform them about the facts and your concerns. Sign up for AAUW Action Alerts and follow up when AAUW emails them to you.

Should you become aware of suspicious activity that suggests human trafficking, it's important to report it. To do so, call one of these hotline numbers:

- **The National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline**
❖ 1-888-373-7888 or
- **The U.S. Department of Justice Hotline**
❖ 1-888-428-7581

Money Matters



Have You Ever Thought about Which Values Are Most Important to You?

Over the course of 2015, I attended numerous training sessions around the country to help me be more effective as I help my clients to live their best lives. In the various training sessions, we often ended up discussing values. Sometimes we chose from decks of cards, sometimes it was more of a one to one discussion, but what they all had in common was trying to focus on a person's highest values and then to understand how we, as financial advisors, might help each person focus on what is most important to them. There are no right or wrong answers.

From the deck of cards, I ended up with these as my top five values:

1. Family (my family is the most important thing in my life);
2. Integrity (it is vitally important to me that others can absolutely rely on me to always do the right thing);
3. Helping Others (this is a big part of my job and I feel great fulfillment when helping others);
4. Competence (in order to help others and my family, I must be excellent at what I do); and
5. Money/Wealth (for me, money is a tool so that I can take care of my family now, and not be a burden to them later).

If you hone your core values down to a short list, then making important decisions becomes much easier!

I challenge you to choose your top five choices from the following list (there are more in the deck!):

- Freedom
- Challenges
- Loyalty
- Integrity
- Cooperation
- Creativity
- Excitement
- Helping others
- Friendship
- Meaningful work

- Adventure
- Achievement
- Leadership
- Flexibility
- Excellence
- Money/Wealth
- Health
- Competence
- Community
- Ecology/Environment
- Fame
- Power
- Order
- Independence
- Safety
- Religion/Spirituality
- Diversity
- Happiness
- Competition
- Change
- Recognition
- Education
- Security
- Family
- Privacy
- Pleasure
- Stability
- Decisiveness

Now that you have your top five, are you honoring those values in both the way you spend your time and money? If not, that may lead to a less fulfilling life for you. **When you have your next important decision to make, look at your list and see if that helps you make a better decision.**

Please e-mail your financial questions to diane@oaktreewealth.com. Your personal information will be kept confidential.

Diane Woodward
AAUW Member Columnist

For a list of states in which I am registered to do business, please visit www.oaktreewealth.com. Diane Woodward, CFP®, RICP® is a registered representative with and securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC www.finra.org www.sipc.org.

Local Scholarship

Thank You



Thank you, everyone, for a successful Silent Auction.

We want to thank the following Special Interest Groups for their beautiful theme baskets:

- Daytime Book Group for Storytime with Grandma;
- Lunch Bunch for Dinner Out;
- Bridge Group for Cucina Italiano; and,
- Hiking Group for A Romantic Evening for Two.

In addition, thank you to the following members for their generous individual baskets: Sally Blackwell for Soup's On, Pat Campbell for Take a Break, Janice Colby for the Italian Basket, Marsha Froines for Picnic in the Park, Marge Gair for Potter's Delight, Anne Hayden for An Italian Journey, and Julie Gin and Lucy Weed for A Good Read.

Without the support of our members and friends, we would not have had such a fun and successful raffle event.

Local Scholarship Committee Member Sally Scholl Receives Laudatory Mention in *Contra Costa Times*

Sally Scholl was featured in Monica Lander's "Around San Ramon" column in the January 14, 2016 edition of the *Contra Costa Times*. Ms. Lander wrote, "The 77-year-young retired teacher from the San Ramon Valley Unified School District will also celebrate her birthday doing what she has grown to love: traveling and empowering people."

Lander states that Sally's trip in February "will be the 21st overseas educational outreach trip she will take as a volunteer with Lifewater International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people to obtain access to sustainable sources of safe drinking water."

Ms. Lander quotes Sally as saying she keeps going back because "I like seeing their progress. I've built tremendous relationships with people...It's a wonderful feeling and it's very rewarding to know that they are very thankful for what we do."

Ms. Lander ends her column with, "Scholl says her goal is to continue her work with Lifewater International 'as long as I'm able.' Her bucket list is filled with even more travel plans to add to the 35 countries she has visited so far. This year she plans to walk 90 miles across England with a Sierra Club group and will venture to Vietnam with her friend and fellow American Association of University Women member, Judy McFarlane...Scholl's daily 5-mile walks, passion for gardening, work with the AAUW Scholarship committee and volunteering as liaison between her church, Valley Christian Center, and Dublin-based Kaleidoscope School's afterschool program for developmentally disabled young adults continues to keep her active and healthy."



The next time you see Sally (or catch up to her!), congratulate her!

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

See you February 15
at

Gianni's
ITALIAN BISTRO

Support Tech Trek!

Interest Groups

LUNCH BUNCH

First Tuesdays

Tuesday, February 2; 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.

Giuseppe's Pasta & Grill 820-8866

2540 San Ramon Valley Road, San Ramon

Call Marsha by Sunday, January 31. Giuseppe's is on the eastern side of SRV Road just south of Crow Canyon Road, across from the Safeway shopping center. If you aren't on the e-mail reminder list, also contact:

Marsha Froines



CHINESE MAH JONG

First Tuesdays and Third Thursdays

Tuesday, February 2; 7:00 PM

Hostess: Diane Griffiths

284 Casper Place, San Ramon

Thursday, February 18; 7:00 PM

Hostess: Linda Louie

1567 Harlan Drive, Danville

Please RSVP to the hostess.

If you have questions about this group, contact Beth Allen



GAME NIGHT

First Saturdays

Saturday, February 6; 7:00 PM

****Note Special Time****

Game night will be at Arlene Addison's home:

4125 Rennellwood Way, Pleasanton

aceaddison@comcast.net

Please RSVP to Arlene by calling or e-mailing her.

Questions? Contact Lucy Weed



Interest Groups

DAYTIME READERS

Second Mondays

Monday, February 8; 1:00 PM

The Daytime Book Group is reading *The Botany of Desire* by Michael Pollan. We'll meet at the home of

Margo James

800 Pradera Way, San Ramon

Please RSVP to Margo. Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't read the book yet. Happy reading!

Questions? Contact Margo James



WALKING GROUP

Saturday, February 13; 9:00 AM

Meet at the Bollinger Park and Ride at 9:00 AM to carpool to Lake Chabot for a 2.08 easy-to-moderate walk (some hills). Let us know you are coming, and we will wait for you. Estimated end of hike is 11:00 AM.

Diane Griffiths

Lois Kamoroff



THIRD TUESDAY BRIDGE

Third Tuesdays

Tuesday, February 16; 7:00 PM

Hostess: Lois Kamoroff

1056 Canyon Hills Road, San Ramon

RSVP required

Contact hostess as soon as possible to let her know if you are playing or not.

Questions? Contact

Chris White



THE NIGHT BOOK GROUP

Third Mondays

****Note Special Date****

Monday, February 22; 7:00 PM

Cheri Ng will review *The Map of Love* by Ahdaf Soueif at the home of

Judy Bracken

3841 Aragon Lane, San Ramon

Questions? Contact

Cheri Ng

Interest Groups

FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS (FFF)

Friday, February 26

Stella Hadjimarkos, Organizer

eshadji@yahoo.com

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




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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.

Interest Groups

TRAVEL GROUP

Coming Soon

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 and their economy, culture, and attitudes toward Westerners. This presentation will be at Anne and Walt's home in Danville. An exact date will be available shortly.

Renae Buckser

Anne Hayden




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FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Marsha Froines 7:00 PM Mah Jong Diane Griffiths 828-3921	3	4	5	6 7:00 PM Game Night Arlene Addison
7	8 1:00 PM Daytime Readers Margo James	9 5:00 PM Board Meeting Cindy Alpert	10	11	12	13 9:00 AM Walking Group Diane Griffiths
14 Newsletter Deadline is tomorrow.	15 Gianni's Tech Trek Fundraiser Fran Bartholomew	16 7:00 PM Bridge Lois Kamoroff	17	18 7:00 PM Mah Jong Linda Louie	19	20
21	22 7:00 PM Night Book Group Judy Bracken	23	24	25 6:30 PM Program with Tracy Guzeman Chris Burchik	26 Fourth Friday Flicks Stella Hadjimarkos	27
28	29 Yes—it's Leap Day!					

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

March 19: San Ramon AAUW Luncheon Program with Helen Rocha, AAUW Fund Grant Recipient

March 22: IBC Meeting

April 15–17: AAUW CA State Convention, San Mateo, CA