

THE VIEW FROM SAN RAMON

Volume 29, Number 4

December 2012

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Holiday Brunch

*Sunday, December 9
11:30 AM-2:30 PM*

Hostess: Jeanne Benedetti

*Cost: \$23 Per Person
(Spouses and Partners invited)*

Catered by Simple Elegance Catering

RSVP Required by December 6

(See page 4 for details)

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AAUW DIVERSITY STATEMENT

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.

2012–2013 Board

CO-PRESIDENTS

Stella Hadjimarkos
Betsy Hoffmann

IMMEDIATE PAST CO-PRESIDENTS

Stella Hadjimarkos
Nancy Southern

PRESIDENT ELECT

~ OPEN ~

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, PROGRAM

Renae Buckser

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, MEMBERSHIP

Margie Goldware
Isabel Lau

VICE PRESIDENT, AAUW FUNDS

Jeanne Benedetti

CO-CHAIRS, LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

Julie Gin
Susan Walker-Christensen

RECORDING SECRETARY

Millie Kessler

TREASURER

Claire Mailhot

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

E-mail: aauwsr@gmail.com

Facebook: San Ramon University Women/AAUW

Appointed Officers & Standing Committees

ART & WIND FESTIVAL CHAIR

Debra Marconi

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Lois Kamoroff

HOSPITALITY

~ OPEN ~

NEWSLETTER

Marsha Froines

Carol Lombardi

PUBLIC POLICY

Susan Beyerle

PUBLICITY

~ OPEN ~

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Sydney Allison

Cindy Alpert

Sally Blackwell

Pat Campbell

Pauline Nolte

Sally Scholl

TECH TREK COORDINATOR

Laurie Dennen

TELEPHONE TREE

Renee Coles

Lois Kamoroff

MORE OPEN POSITIONS:

BYLAWS/BRANCH POLICY

COMMUNITY & INTERNATIONAL

DIVERSITY

EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE

~ (Contact a co-president for information.) ~

President's Pen

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day and managed to spend some time with friends and family. Since November is a time for giving thanks and appreciating our families, friends, communities, and organizations that enrich our lives, we have special thanks for the women who put together three wonderful programs in November for us.

We thank our Membership Co-Vice Presidents Margie Goldware and Isabel Lau for the New Members Social on November 8, where several new members found what a fun organization we can be. We thank Pauline Nolte for heading the Jazz at the Library program on November 2. The music was great, and we got publicity for our branch. We also thank the Scholarship Committee, headed by Julie Gin and Susan Walker-Christensen, for the Silent Auction and Holiday Boutique on November 29.

Big thanks to all of you who have participated in the *It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard* project! AAUW CA branches worked to register voters, educate them about women's issues and the state propositions, and did phone-banking to remind women to vote. Women's voices really were heard in this election and more women have been elected into public office. We have much to celebrate, and our public policy work continues to be vitally important.

Thanks to all who completed and submitted the Public Policy Survey, which is found at the AAUW CA website. The deadline is December 1, 2012 for the procrastinators. Your responses are important, as they will help us determine our public policy priorities. Issues important to women are more apparent after the November 6 election, and we need to know where AAUW CA should direct its public policy resources for the next two years.

AAUW is quite a remarkable organization. Through research, public policy, and legal advocacy, women continue to have a voice shaping the future, creating greater equity for women, and opportunities for girls to be leaders in government, business, law, science, and many other professions.

Happy Holidays,
Stella Hadjimarkos, Co-President with
Betsy Hoffmann

Membership

Membership Matters

Several of us enjoyed a delicious meal and lively conversation on November 8 at a potluck get-together for new and seasoned members. A hearty thank you to everyone who contributed time and energy to make the evening satisfying to our appetites for both food and fellowship.

Welcome to our newest member, Julie Raetz. All new members are invited to become involved in branch activities and leadership. Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:00–7:00 PM at the law offices of member Stu Goldware and are open to all members. Come visit!

We thank Elaine Baldwin for agreeing to write profiles of some of our newest members for upcoming newsletters. We look forward to becoming acquainted with everyone. Branch membership is now 105 and growing!

The branch is seeking enthusiastic people to help with all board activities next year, including membership and program development, ice cream sales at the Art & Wind Festival, and fundraising projects for AAUW Funds. Please speak to a board member if you are interested in helping to lead the branch this year or next.

Thank you, member recruiters! This year all member recruiters receive a Regal Theater movie ticket for each member you bring into the branch. So far, we have awarded tickets to Cindy Alpert, Laurie Dennen, Claire Mailhiot, Marsha Froines, and Marielle Boortz. Please keep your prospective member referrals coming our way and bring your friends to programs and interest group meetings. Prospective members may attend up to three events to "try us out" before joining. Do you have questions about our branch? You can probably find answers on our new website, sanramon-ca.aauw.net.

Margie Goldware and Isabel Lau,
Co-Vice Presidents, Membership

Happy December Birthdays

Beth Allen	12/04
Marielle Boortz	12/06
Sherri Hedman	12/08
Kim Giuliano	12/09
Maria Johnson	12/18
Laurie Dennen	12/29
Heidi Yamaguchi	12/29

Program

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AAUW Holiday Brunch

Sunday, December 9; 11:30 AM–2:30 PM

Members & Spouses/Partners Invited

Hostess: Jeannie Benedetti

**Come Celebrate the Holidays with
Your AAUW Friends!**

Menu

*Prepared by Simply Elegant Catering
(A Division of Ruggie's)*

Chili Relleno Casserole, Thai Chicken Salad
Assorted Breakfast Meats and Pastries
Fresh Fruit Display with Lemon Yogurt Sauce
Chilled Grilled Vegetable Assortment
Orange Juice
Gourmet Tea, Regular and Decaf Coffee
One Bloody Mary or Mimosa Per Person

Cost: \$23 Per Person

RSVP by remitting your check for \$23.00 per person no later than December 6 to Janice Colby, or Lois Kamoroff.

This is a catered event, so your payment is your reservation. Unfortunately, we will not be able to take any last-minute reservations or cancellations.

If you have questions, contact Janice Colby.

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Coming in January!

Save the Date!

Tuesday, January 22 at 7:00 PM

We will start the new year with a program on financial planning titled "Money Matters at Every Stage—A Guide for Women Who Want to Expand Their Investment Confidence" given by a Certified Financial Planner. Details will be provided in the January newsletter.

Renae Buckser, Vice President, Programs

**American Association Of University Women
Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch**

Holiday Home Tour

Friday and Saturday

December 7 and 8

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

Adults \$30

Seniors (65+) \$25

Prices go up after December 1

AAUW's eighth annual tour will showcase six delightfully decorated homes in Danville, Alamo, and Walnut Creek. From holiday trees decked out in crystal to rooms dedicated to model trains, this year's tour has something for everyone.

Light Refreshments

Holiday Quilt Raffle

To purchase tickets, send check made payable to *Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW* to P.O. Box 996, Alamo, CA 94507 or go to East Bay Flower Company, 206 Sycamore Valley Road West (in Danville Livery) between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Monday–Friday or 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM on Saturday (cash or check only).

Information: e-mail holidayhometour@aauw-daw.org or visit <http://aauw-daw/hhtour/hht12.html>

☞ Please, no children under 12 or pets. ☞

Proceeds benefit local scholars and Tech Trek.

Local Scholarship

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The Local Scholarship Committee received a nice thank-you card from our three Renaissance Scholar recipients (Clarresha Slay, Donnisha Udo-Okon, and Loan Nguyen) expressing their thanks and appreciation for both the funds and the gift baskets they received. They are all very busy and working hard, but in addition we received the following individual letters from Loan and Donnisha.

Loan Nguyen

Dear Susan,

Hope all is well with you and the rest of the ladies. Please send all of them my best regards. As for me, I am doing great. My schedule is packed and I am so busy. I wish there were more hours in a day so that I can do more things and rest.

Mondays: I still volunteer at the Medical Center in Oakland from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: From 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, I work for EOP and RSP at school. I am a peer mentor and I see 19 students per week, helping them with their academic success. After that, I have classes from 12:00 to 6:00 PM.

Wednesdays: I go to appointments or run errands and do most of my homework.

Fridays: I work at school from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Weekends: I spend time with my daughter, do chores, and study.

It's only the third week of school and I've already used up printer ink (purchase with Best Buy gift card). I've stocked up on this month's groceries (purchase with all the Lucky's gift cards). I am using all the school supplies that I've received. I am currently sleeping on the queen size bed sheets and all the hangers are being used. Everything

inside that gift basket is very helpful and I appreciate everything you've done! Again, thank you so much for this scholarship and for being the wonderful person that you are. See you soon!

Yours truly,
Loan Nguyen
Peer Mentor
Renaissance Scholars Program
Educational Opportunity Program
California State University, East Bay

Donnisha Udo-Okon

Hello Susan and the AAUW Committee:

As you know, the school year has begun! So it's back to many long nights studying and 10 page papers, but it's all going to pay off in the end. Classes are going well for me for the most part; that aren't that demanding just yet, but I know I am going to be able to handle it all. Thanks once again for the scholarship and the individual care package you made for me; I am using all and I mean all of the items that you all gave to me, especially the vacuum. It has helped a lot with keeping my apartment clean; it's easier to clean rather than using a broom, so thank you for that contribution; it meant a lot. Thanks again for everything and you all will be hearing from me soon! I hope you all are doing well!

Take care,
Donnisha Udo-Okon

Local Scholarship Committee:
Julie Gin and Susan Walker-Christensen, Co-Chairs
Committee Members: Sydney Allison, Cindy Alpert, Sally Blackwell, Pat Campbell, Pauline Nolte, and Sally Scholl

*All the art of living lies in a fine mingling
of letting go and holding on.*

Henry Ellis

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Public Policy

Six Reasons to Feel Good About the Future (Or, all that pre-election work and stress paid off!)

In terms of U.S. public policy, the 2012 election was one of the most pivotal for women in recent history. After two years of legislative attacks on women's reproductive rights and pay equity, the morning of November 7 greeted us with record-breaking, groundbreaking, and glass-ceiling-smashing milestones for women in America. Listed below are six terrific things we learned after the election.

1. **Female voters are paying attention, and their support wins elections.** Women made up 54 percent of the electorate, and favored President Obama by 11 percent. That's an 18-point gender gap.
2. **The state of Wisconsin sent their first woman to the Senate,** Tammy Baldwin.
3. **Voters made it clear that they weren't interested in electing men who publicize their ignorance of the female reproductive system.** Todd Akin, Richard Mourdock, and Tom Smith all paid for their patently flawed/insulting comments about women's bodies with the loss of their respective elections—in Akin's case, to Claire McCaskill.
4. **The State of New Hampshire is about to be run by women.** This state will boast our nation's first all-women delegation: governor, two senators, and two congresswomen.
5. **Both the Republican and Democratic parties continue to have female governors in their ranks.**
6. **Americans elected a record number of women to both the Senate and the House of Representatives.** The 113th Congress will include at least 20 female senators and 77 women in the House. And, for the first time, white men will no longer be the majority of the Democratic caucus in the new House.

Also encouraging news: Voters under the age of 29 comprised 19 percent of the electorate, up from 12 percent last election cycle. We can be proud that AAUW played a big part of that success through its *It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard* campaign targeting female voters.

In a country where women currently make up more than half of the electorate, we could either view these achievements as slow progress, or as a sign of things to come. What do I see? There are glass shards on the floor,

and light's pouring in through a hole in the ceiling. Well done, ladies, and onward!

Susan Beyerle, Public Policy Chair

Glossary

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AAUW National

AAUW: American Association of University Women. Name adopted in 1921 through the merger of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae and the Southern Association of Collegiate Women. No periods between initials. AAUW is headquartered in Washington, D.C. AAUW is a 501(c)(3) corporation, donations to which are tax-deductible and support all programs of AAUW. E-mail address: connect@aauw.org.

The History of the American Association of University Women by Marion Talbot and Lois K.M. Rosenberry: The history of AAUW from 1881 to 1931. Talbot was one of the founders of AAUW.

Degrees of Equality: The American Association of University Women and the Challenge of Twentieth-Century Feminism by Susan Levine: The history of AAUW and the Educational Foundation from 1930 to 1980.

AAUW In Action: Every-member online newsletter containing how-to information for branch leaders, AAUW Funds updates, and convention news.

¡Adelante!: AAUW program designed to move AAUW toward becoming a multicultural organization.

Campus Outreach Fund: Through the LAF Campus Outreach Fund, AAUW branches and members can receive up to \$750 in funding to implement a gender equity-focused program at their local college or university.

AAUW CA

AAUW California: *The Twentieth Century*: The history of AAUW California from its founding in 1921 (with background material from 1886) to 2001.

AAUW Funds

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Legal Advocacy Fund

Title IX Suit Paves Way for Fairer Treatment of Girls' Sports in Indiana

A settlement has been reached in the LAF-supported case *Parker v. Indiana High School Athletic Association*, ending Amber Parker and Tammy Hurley's fight for fairer scheduling of the varsity girls' basketball games in Franklin County, Indiana on behalf of their daughters.

Parker alleged violations of Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution due to a disparity in the scheduling of boys' and girls' varsity basketball games. The suit argued that almost all the boys' games were played in prime time—on Friday and Saturday nights—compared with only about half of the girls' games. The plaintiffs said that the scheduling unfairly placed academic burdens on the girls (who competed on school nights), deprived them of crowd support, and made them feel like second-class athletes.

The settlement was approved by the U.S. District Court for Southern Indiana and requires progressive improvements in scheduling girls' varsity basketball games through 2017.

Feather River Cases to Move Forward

For over four years, AAUW has supported three lawsuits against Feather River Community College in California. The plaintiffs are former staff members who allege sex discrimination and retaliation for complaining about sex discrimination in violation of Title IX. In 2007, a hearing was held before the California State Personnel Board ("SPB"). In August 2009, the SPB judge ruled in favor of all three plaintiffs, but in 2010, the full SPB rejected the judge's decision, and an appeal was filed on behalf of the plaintiffs.

In November 2012, the Plumas County Superior Court overturned the SPB's ruling, siding with the SPB judge and the plaintiffs, and ordered the full SPB to reconsider the complaints. The SPB has yet to decide whether to appeal the Superior Court's decision.

Crossing the Line Presentations

LAF Program Manager Holly Kearl presented on the research findings of *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School* during a conference for teachers

and administrators at Northern Illinois University in late October. In November, she presented at the National Women's Studies Association conference in Oakland, California. The PowerPoint presentations on the research and/or the full report are available to share with our community at <http://www.aauw.org/learn/research/crossingtheline.cfm>

Jeanne Benedetti, AAUW Funds Vice-President

Holiday Shopping That Helps Women!

Shopping on Shoptimize.org means that you are patronizing a woman-led business while getting a 10 percent discount as well! Shoptimize carries a wide range of items including clothing, accessories, and home goods, and every purchase lets you shop a woman to the top! [Visit today](#), and check off your holiday gift-list items!

Editors' note: This information was taken from the November 2012 AAUW Mission & Action e-newsletter that is e-mailed to all AAUW members.

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Editors' Note: The following information is taken from the AAUW CA Board to Board e-Newsletter dated November 2012.

Human Trafficking in our state is of interest to many AAUW members. A "must read" is the report recently issued by Kamala Harris, California Attorney General: *The State of Human Trafficking 2012* is a comprehensive summary of existing policy, current status, and recommendations for the future. The report can be found online at oag.ca.gov/human-trafficking

Sue Miller, AAUW CA Vice-President and Public Policy Director

Interest Groups

READING SOCIETY

Third Monday

Monday, December 17; 7:30 PM

Sydney Allison will review *When Things Fall Apart* by Pema Chodron.

Hostess: Laurie Dennen

RSVP to Laurie. If you have questions, contact Cheri Ng

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TUESDAY NIGHT BRIDGE

Third Tuesday

Tuesday, December 18; 6:00 PM

Note Special Time!

Dinner & Holiday Party!!!

Hostess: Fran Bartholomew

RSVP required. E-mail or call Fran as soon as possible to let her know if you are playing or not on the scheduled date and to receive your food assignment.

Please also bring an exchange gift (approximately \$15 value).

Questions? Contact Chris White

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FOURTH FRIDAY FLICKS

Friday, December 28

Monthly Organizer: Lois Kamoroff

We meet on the fourth Friday of each month to enjoy a movie chosen by the Monthly Organizer. 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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WANNA GO (But Not By Yourself?)

E-mail me and I will let the group know you are interested. Group members who are also interested will contact you to schedule your excursion!

Marsha Froines

Interest Groups

TRAVEL GROUP

Travel Group will not meet in December. We wish you happy holidays and safe travels.

Save the date!

Please join us for the next Travel Group program.

Saturday January 12, 2013; 7:30 PM

AAUW members Chris White, Lucy Weed, Jane Young, and Pat Barley took a tour to Australia and a cruise to New Zealand. We will see a presentation on highlights of the two countries. Details will be provided in the January newsletter.

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 our event's hostess if you will be attending.

Rena Buckser

Anne Hayden



DECEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Daytimers to <u>Tea at DVC</u> 7:30 PM Game Night Mary Venkat
2	3	4 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch Marsha Froines <hr/> 7:00 PM Mah Jong Mercedes Daggett	5	6 Deadline for Holiday Brunch reservations	7	8 9:00 AM Walking Group Diane Griffiths Hanukkah begins
9 11:30 AM Cork 'n' Fork Holiday Brunch Janice Colby	10	11 5:00 PM Board Meeting Stella Hadjimarkos	12	13	14	15 Newsletter deadline
16	17 7:30 PM Reading Society Laurie Dennen	18 6:00 PM Bridge & Holiday Party Fran Bartholomew	19	20 7:00 PM Mah Jong Chris White	21	22
23	24	25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa begins	27	28 Fourth Friday Flicks Lois Kamoroff	29
30	31 Ring in the New Year!					

SNIPPETS

Our deepest sympathies go to Michele Wiley on the loss of her husband, Harry.

Member Nancy Powers invites you to read an article she wrote for *Wealth Counsel* at <http://www.wealthcounsel.com/newsletter/Nancy-Powers-The-Best-Estate-Plan-is-No-Match-for-Unprepared-Heirs.pdf>.

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 2013

January 12: Travel Group Program

January 22: San Ramon AAUW Program, "Money Matters at Every Stage—A Guide for Women Who Want to Expand Their Investment Confidence"

April 20: AAUW CA Annual Meeting, Sacramento

June 9–12: AAUW National Convention, New Orleans