

THE ADVOCATE

AAUW Advances Equity for Women and Girls Through
Advocacy, Education, Philanthropy and Research



Issue 4 • December, 2010

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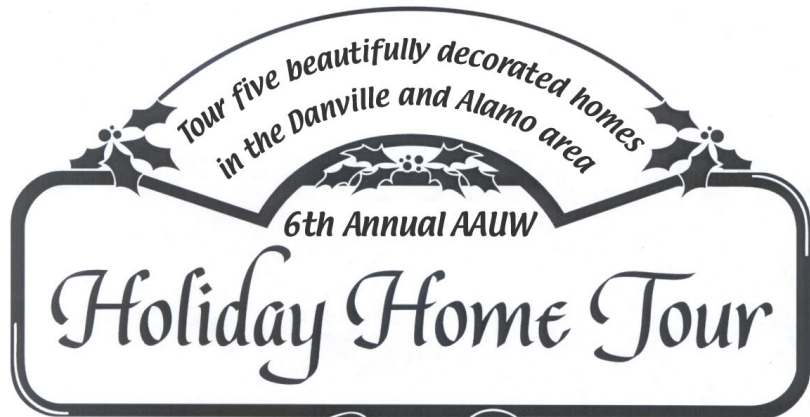
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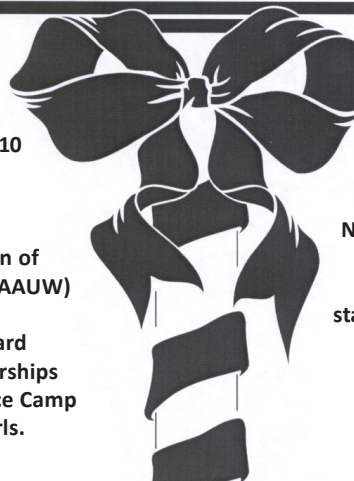
List of this year's branch
programs and our
monthly events.



10am - 4pm
Friday & Saturday
December 10 & 11, 2010

Sponsored by the
Danville-Alamo
American Association of
University Women (AAUW)

All proceeds go toward
AAUW's local scholarships
and Tech Trek Science Camp
for middle school girls.



\$30 per person
if postmarked by
December 3
and \$35 thereafter
(\$25 for seniors 65+
throughout tour)
No children under age 12

Mail a self-addressed,
stamped return, envelope
along with a check
payable to:
Danville-Alamo AAUW
255 Morris Ranch Ct
Danville, CA 94526

Tickets may also be purchased (cash or checks only), starting Nov 1, at
East Bay Floral Company, Livery Shopping Center, Danville
Call Ingrid at (925)788-1698 with questions or
e-mail: holidaytour@aauw-da.org

We will be collecting non-perishable food items at the homes.
Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

COMING IN JANUARY:

SELF DEFENSE FOR WOMEN
See Page 6

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

BY MARY MIX and MARCIA STEINHARDT
CO-PRESIDENTS

This holiday season is a wonderful time for sharing special times with friends and family. What better opportunity to plan a special day than by touring our five fabulous Holiday Home Tour homes all decked out in their finest. Then join us at our Holiday Party at the home of Carol and Dave Highton, 1933 Park Meadow Drive, Alamo, at 6:30 P.M. on December 11.

We have a very able Nominating Committee in place that will be selecting our 2011-2012 slate of officers. The committee includes Karen Abu-Handeh, Gail Clark, Kathie Hixon, Caroline Sanchez, and Kerry Montalvo. We are all very appreciative of the opportunities that AAUW has provided for us. As a member of this organization, we have a responsibility to give of our special talents to keep things running smoothly. Consider how you might contribute next year...it takes many capable individuals to run a branch with a membership this large. Please make our Nominating Committee's job easier by stepping forward to participate.



Mary Mix
Co-President

Thanks to our International Co-Chairs, Asha Bajaj and Gus Slavin, and our featured speaker Jo Harber-son, for their International Affairs meeting last month. We learned why Virginia Gildersleeve holds such an important place in women's history and why our branch has supported this fund in the past and is considering future support.

We wish you and your families peace and love this holiday season. ❖



Marcia Steinhardt
Co-President

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Are you seeking a format to have a great time and enjoy new people who live nearby you? The Hospitality Committee stills needs neighborhood hosts for several areas. Hosting your neighborhood doesn't require a lot of time or effort, just an open heart willing to create an environment for members to come together, get to know one another as neighbors, and help new members become aware of all that AAUW has to offer. **The following groups are still in need of a host:**

Group 8- Daffodil- North/ West Alamo
Group 13- Hellebore- San Ramon/Dublin/Pleasanton
Group 20- Central Camino Tassajara area

Group 12- Dragonfly- South/ Central Danville
Group 17- Orchid- Diablo Area

Please contact Sharon Cohune if this sounds like something that you would be interested in doing at 648-5153 or sfcohune@comcast.net. ❖

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PUBLIC POLICY

BY CYNTHIA SAVELL

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW supports promoting science, technology, engineering and math education especially for girls and other underrepresented populations. These efforts will help increase America's competitiveness by reducing gender barriers that deter women from working toward academic and career goals in these fields. If U.S. universities are producing fewer male engineers, why not encourage female students to fill these important roles. After all, this country is in a race with other countries whose wish is to overtake American dominance in science and technology. Former Vice President Al Gore hosted a live interactive online town hall titled, "Math, Science and the Future of Our Nation," in November to motivate American students in math and science studies with the goal of succeeding in the global marketplace. Researchers at the University of Arizona have developed a new resource called 'CareerWise' to support women in the stem subjects. Gender is the biggest factor in completion of science and engineering doctorates, and nearly half of women consider dropping out or earning a lesser degree due to multiple forms of gender bias. Please [click here](#) to read AAUW's latest research report, entitled '[Why So Few?](#)' President Obama's bipartisan deficit commission recently introduced its proposed plan to reduce the national deficit by more than \$3.8 trillion over the next decade. Among the proposed changes, the commission recommended raising the Social Security early retirement age to 64 and standard age to 69, with a hardship exemption at 62, kicking in by 2075. Retirees currently receive early benefits at age 62. This plan has not been approved by the commission but the chairs hope to use it as a starting point for reaching agreement among at least 14 of the 18 members by early December. Members on both sides of the aisle have expressed concern with this plan, but it is the first of many discussions to come, bringing potential changes to Social Security Benefits. There will be more information in coming articles as we follow these developments. As stated in the 2009-2011 Public Policy Program, AAUW supports a Social Security system that provides inflation-protected, guaranteed lifetime benefits with a progressive benefit formula, spousal and widow benefits, and disability and survivor benefits. AAUW also believes any reductions to retirement benefits are detrimental for women. Women live longer and have fewer resources at the end of their careers than men on average. Cutting benefits would generally increase poverty and decrease purchasing power.

Congratulations to Branch member Joan Buchanan in her re-election victory over opponent Abram Wilson for the 15th district seat in the California Legislature. Incumbent U. S. Representative Jerry McNerney declared victory over his opponent David Harmer, but Harmer has refused to concede. The House of Representatives has experienced an expected changeover in party dominance, and new targets are emerging. In their haste to rescind the recently passed Health Care for All Americans bill, the new occupants should not forget it is their turn to help bring about more jobs for all Americans. There are more challenges to come as Congress examines additional ways to cut the deficit, like ending the tax deduction for mortgages, possible increases in gasoline rates, and elimination of other tax benefits. We are 14 trillion dollars in debt, which is about 44 thousand dollars for each person. And California budget worries are not over either. Our 35+ day-old budget is now 6.2 billion dollars in the red with no new ideas to address the problem.

What action will the new governor take to address the 25.4 and rising billion dollar budget for next year? New taxes and less spending are not enough. Many perks we have become used to will have to be eliminated because they cannot be sustained. Economists worry that our children and grandchildren will not enjoy economic benefits presently enjoyed by Californians and Americans in general. We will have to expect a huge increase in taxes no matter what, and more tax benefits will have to be sunsetted. ❖

Danville-Alamo AAUW

GOOD DEEDS

to benefit and support those so deserving

BETTER PROGRAMS

to bolster our interest and raise our awareness

BEST MEMBERS

anywhere!

Also, EXCEPTIONAL

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People &
Properties

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DOLLY PARTON

A Remarkable Woman

by Caroline Sanchez

Chair, Women's History

In 1946 in a small hamlet in Tennessee, Dolly Parton was born to a family that would have 12 children. She made up tunes before she could write. Why would I write about her? A few years ago, I attended "Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede" at Branson, Missouri. Entering the building, I was intrigued by posters about her child literacy program, Imagination Library.

Dolly was born "dirt poor" living in a one room cabin, but she had a creative imagination. At age nine she was writing songs and singing at a radio station. At thirteen she began recording songs and sang at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee. The day after she graduated from high school, she headed for Nashville, and the rest is history.

Most of us know Dolly as a buxom, bleached blond country singer who wears tight clothes and bright makeup. She emulated a trashy persona to look like a "town tramp," which she honestly thought was beautiful when she was young. At twenty, she married Carl Thomas Dean, a very private person who is still her husband.

Between 1967 and 1976, she wrote popular songs such as, "Coat of Many Colors" and "I Will Always Love You." She played nine instruments, and during 1977 to 1986, branched out to pop music. With no children of her own, she raised many of her younger siblings, then nephews and nieces.

In 1980 Dolly wrote the song and acted in the movie "9 to 5," for which she received the Academy Award, "Best Original Song." She has worked in television and movies, written 3000 songs, and performed in sold out tours in the U.S. and Europe. She has sold 155 million records around the world.

Dolly is a good businesswoman too. In 1986 she became co-owner of Dollywood Theme Park in Tennessee and owner of "Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede" dinner theater, bringing much needed revenue to her home state. Some of her many awards include being inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1995 and the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2001 and being ranked the "Wealthiest Country Music Star" by Nashville Businessmen in 1998. In 1986 she was named Ms. Magazine's Woman of the Year.

To improve education in Appalachia, Dolly began a literacy program in Sevier County, Tennessee, where she was born, called, "Dolly Parton's Imagination Library," which is part of her Dollywood Foundation. She mails one book per month to each enrolled child from the time of their birth until they enter kindergarten. This program has now been replicated in 566 counties across 36 states, as well as in Canada and England, and more than 2.5 million free books are distributed to children annually.

For her contributions, this petite dynamo has received the National Medal of Arts, the highest honor given by U.S. Government for Excellence in the Arts, presented by the U.S. President. In 2006, she received the Kennedy Center Honors Lifetime Contribution to the Arts award.

As an AAUW member, I commend her for her work in literacy. She has received various awards for this work, including from the Association of American Publishers in 2002, Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval in 2001, American Association of School Administrators in 2002, National State Teachers of the Year Award, and Parents and Teachers National Center Child and Family Advocacy in 2003.

In 2009, Dolly was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane and Musical Letters degree from the University of Tennessee. Chancellor Jimmy Cheek said she has a career not just as a musician and entertainer, but also as a cultural ambassador, philanthropist and lifelong advocate for education. ❖



Danville Community Band

Join us for our 10th season of bringing musical entertainment to the greater Danville area.

Upcoming Concerts

October 17, 2010; 3PM
A Concert for Rossmoor Residents

December 12, 2010; 3PM
East Bay Fellowship
2615 Camino Tassajara, Danville

March 6, 2011; 2PM
Blackhawk Museum
3700 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., Danville

Look for the **Danville Community Band** on Facebook, www.danvilleband.org, or www.instantencore.com.

Spirit Space
Bill Williams PhD
925-413-8828
jpbillwilliams@juno.com
www.spirit-space.com

Landscape and Fine Garden Design

ART & GARDEN - December 15 Van Gogh, Gaughin, Cezanne and Beyond

On Wednesday, December 15, 2010, we'll travel to the de Young Museum to see "Van Gogh, Gaughin, Cezanne and Beyond" Post-Impressionist Masterpieces from the Musee D'Orsay. This exhibition highlights 120 late Impressionist paintings by artists including Van Gogh, Gaughin, Cezanne, Renior, Toulouse-Lautrec and Seurat. The de Young is the only museum in North America to host this celebrated collection rarely seen outside France. Cost is \$20/person and \$17 for seniors 65+. Members of the de Young are free. This is a very popular exhibit and we will need to book our entry time in advance. I will try to book our group at 11:00 and the cost will be non-refundable after booking. We will lunch at the de Young after viewing the exhibit. We will car pool to the de Young and we need drivers. The exhibit ends January 18, 2011, and I am hoping it will be less crowded in mid-December. Please contact Jacque Schubert at 925-855-7002 or jacqueschubert@comcast.net for more information or to sign up. ❖

DAYTIME PARTY BRIDGE & DUPLICATE BRIDGE - December 20 Holiday Game and Luncheon

Daytime Party Bridge and Duplicate Bridge groups will join together for a holiday game and luncheon on Monday, December 20 at 9:30 A.M. at the home of Barbara Nexsen. Please bring an ingredient for a salad. Please RSVP to Barbara at 837-9625. ❖

BOOKS II - December 16 Book Discussion and Holiday Potluck

Books II will meet on Thursday, December 16 at 11:00 A.M. to discuss *Monique and the Mango Rains* by Kris Holloway. Marilyn Bressler is hosting this holiday potluck event. For information, contact Doris Ringot at dring@ifn.net. ❖

HIKE GROUP - December 8 Lafayette Reservoir

Hello hikers. We will take our annual, #3, pre-holiday walk around the Lafayette Reservoir on Wednesday, December 8. Join us for a holiday, stress-free, 3-mile hike. This hike is rated easy. Please meet for carpooling at the Sycamore Park n' Ride at 8:30 A.M. We will be back by 11:00 A.M. For details, contact Kathiehixon@comcast.net. ❖

CINEMA 1 - December 12 Annual Holiday Celebration


Meet at the home of Caroline Sanchez to discuss *Hereafter*. RSVP to Caroline at 736-7940 or carolinesanchez@sbcglobal.net. ❖



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St. Helena, CA 94574
Tele: (707) 963-0909
Fax: (707) 963-5527

JANUARY, 2011 PROGRAM - SELF DEFENSE FOR WOMEN

DON'T BE BULLIED!

Award winning Renaissance Club Sports trainer, movement coach and community volunteer, Pedro Bernardy, will lead a 1½ hour program on Self Defense for Women on Thursday, January 6, in the Oak View Room at the new Walnut Creek Library, 1644 N. Broadway at Civic Drive. Mr. Bernardy will focus on assertiveness and safety strategies. Following the self-defense session, we will have small group tours of the library showcasing this new community facility that opened July 2010. Please wear comfortable attire.

Morning refreshments at 9:30 A.M., self-defense program at 10:00 A.M., mini tour of the new library at 11:30 A.M. Parking recommended at structure on Broadway and Crescent.

To reserve, send checks for \$10 payable to Danville-Alamo AAUW to Pat Gross, 606 Bridgewater Circle, Danville, CA 94526 by January 5; \$12 at the door.

Information: Karen Large at 891-4632 or Pat Gross at 831-8518. ❖

FEBRUARY, 2011 PROGRAM - DKG-Zeta-Zeta/AAUW Dinner Program

Featured speaker will be Tam Ma, daughter of a 1979 Vietnamese boat person. Ma is a judicial extern for the Honorable Kimberly Mueller, US Magistrate Judge and a 2010-11 AAUW Selected Professions Fellows recipient. This will be a dinner meeting at Scotts Seafood in Walnut Creek.

2010-11 BRANCH PROGRAMS

12/10 - 12/11	10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.	6th Annual Holiday Home Tour. A Local Scholarship and Tech Trek benefit.
12/11	6:30 P.M.	Branch Holiday Party. Highton Home, 1933 Park Meadow Dr., Alamo. Members bring a sweet or a savory appetizer.
01/06	9:30 A.M.	Program. Mini-tour of the new Walnut Creek Library and special guest speaker, Pedro Bernardy, a women's self-defense expert highlight this month's program. Walnut Creek Library, 1644 North Broadway, Walnut Creek.
02/22	5:30 P.M.	Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG)/AAUW Combined Program. Featured speaker will be Tam Ma, daughter of a 1979 Vietnamese boat person. Scotts Seafood Restaurant, Walnut Creek.
03/12	11:00 A.M.	Luncheon Program. Museum of San Ramon Valley presents <i>Remember the Ladies</i> honoring 100 years of Women's Right to Vote in CA. Crow Canyon Country Club.
April	TBA	LAF Program. TBA.
04/08 - 04/10	---	State Convention. Irvine. 90 Years AAUW-CA, 1921-2011.
05/06 - 05/07	10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.	11th Annual Garden Tour. An Educational Foundation benefit.
06/16 - 06/19	---	AAUW National Convention. Washington, DC.
June	TBA	Installation and Awards Presentation. Location to be determined.

DECEMBER CALENDAR: SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

12/03	9:00 A.M.	Board Meeting. Mary Mix and Marcia Steinhardt, Co-Presidents. Shadow Hills Cabana, 1001 El Capitan Drive, Danville.
12/03	11:30 A.M.	Adventurous Chefs. Contact Phyllis Sheller at 280-0437. [WAIT LIST]
12/06 12/13 12/20 12/27	10:00 A.M.	Mah Jongg. Weekly meetings at various locations. Contact Paula Weintraub at pauladuck@yahoo.com
12/07	7:30 P.M.	Evening Literature. <i>The 19th Wife</i> by David Ebershoff. Hosting: Carol Highton at 837-5836.
12/08	8:30 A.M.	Hiking Group. Pre-holiday walk around the Lafayette Reservoir. For details, contact Kathie Hixon at kathiehixon@comcast.net .
12/08	7:30 P.M.	Evening Bridge. For details, contact Barbara Nexson at 837-9625.
12/10	7:30 P.M.	Oscar I. For details, contact Sharon Cohune at 648-5153.
12/11	---	Golf. TBA. Contact Marian Bliss at 820-4709.
12/12	5:00 P.M.	Cinema I. Hereafter. Hosting: Caroline Sanchez at 736-7940. Movie review and holiday celebration. See Page 5 for details.
12/14	11:30 A.M.	Movies 'n Lunch. For details, contact Diane Stangel at 939-0373.
12/15	---	ADVOCATE DEADLINE. E-mail your articles to Cheryl Kohleriter and Cindy Cassady by Noon today.
12/15	9:30 A.M.	Art & Garden. <i>Van Gogh, Gaughin, Cezanne and Beyond: Post Impressionist Masterpieces.</i> See Page 5 for details.
12/15	9:30 A.M.	Contemporary Books. Holiday potluck. Hosting: Mary Ann Hruska.
12/16	10:00 A.M.	Books II. <i>Monique and the Mango Rains</i> by Kris Holloway. Book review and holiday potluck. Hosting: Marilyn Bressler. See Page 5 for details.
12/18	7:30 P.M.	Epicureans. Contact Judy Finch at 946-0249. [WAIT LIST]
12/20	9:30 A.M.	Daytime Party Bridge and Duplicate Bridge Groups. Holiday game and luncheon at the home of Barbara Nexsen at 837-9625. See Page 5 for details.
12/23	9:30 A.M.	Daytime Literature. For details, contact Pat Madsen at patrmads@hotmail.com .

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JANUARY PROGRAM

SELF-DEFENSE FOR WOMEN
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

9:30 A.M.

Morning Refreshments
SELF-DEFENSE PROGRAM
MINI-TOUR OF LIBRARY

See Page 6 for details.

For details and updates on upcoming Branch Programs, see our website at
<http://www.aauw-da/org/program.html>