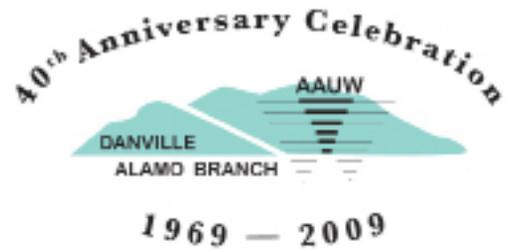


# THE ADVOCATE

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



Issue 7 • March, 2010

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## MARCH PROGRAM... THE WELLNESS PANEL

BY LORETTA ALTSHULER  
CO-VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS

AAUW Danville-Alamo Branch proudly presents on a special wellness panel on **Saturday, March 20**. This presentation discussing women's health issues in the second half of life. The focus of these presentations will be for women over 50. We are honored to have Sondra Altman, MD present a talk titled "Hormones: The Good, The Bad and The Confusing." She will be joined by Linda Michaelis, RD, Nutritionist, who will discuss ideas about eating correctly and Asha Bajaj, DPT, Physical Therapist, discussing "Bone Up on Bone Health". Issues concerning osteoporosis, vitamin D, and bone fractures will be discussed. You will walk away with an increased knowledge of how to continue to best maintain your health and wellness.

A distinguished speaker, Dr. Altman is a board certified OB-GYN since 1985. She employs humor and candor to demystify menopause and hormonal topics. She received her MD from Boston University Medical School. In addition to her private practice, Dr. Altman also has practiced at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek from 1990 to the present.

Linda Michaelis, RD, Nutritionist, has been in private practice in Contra Costa County for more than 25 years. Her practice is located in Alamo. She received her Bachelor of Science from Syracuse University in 1976 and Masters in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics from New York University in 1978. She has spent years learning about the misconceptions of foods and how to change eating habits with the inclusion of favorite foods.



Asha Bajaj, DPT

Asha Bajaj, DPT, completed her BS in Physical Therapy from King Edward Memorial, her MA in Health Science from CSU-SJ and recently her Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Boston University. Her doctoral project focus was on osteoporosis and bone health. Asha has been in private practice for over 20 years and has served on the clinical faculty at UCSF. She is currently involved with acute care at San Ramon Regional and has volunteered overseas with Health Volunteers in Bhutan and India.

This event will be held at the Shadow Hills Cabana Club House, 1001 El Capitan Drive, Danville, from 9:30 A.M. to Noon. Refreshments will be served at 9:30 A.M. prior to our panel presentation. Dr. Altman will begin at 10:00 A.M. with her presentation. We expect to conclude the morning program by noon.

If you would like to attend, please send a check for **\$8.00 per person payable to Danville-Alamo AAUW by Monday, March 15**. Please mail this reservation to AAUW Danville-Alamo Branch, P.O. Box 996, Alamo, CA 94507, Attn: Programs. We look forward to seeing you at this exciting event. If you have any questions about this program, contact Loretta Altshuler at 765-0895. ❖



Sondra Altman, MD



Linda Michaelis, RD

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

### March 2010 Celebrating Women's History Month



BY KATHIE HIXON and MARIAN BLISS  
Co-Presidents

February was a short month, packed with lots of branch activities! We launched our **Great Decisions Global Affairs Education Program**, covering eight foreign policy topics. Thanks to **Roseann Krane, Gus Slavin** and **Joan Ward** for organizing this informative program for our branch. Our International Program featured **Ronnie Goldfarb** from **Equal Access**. Equal Access' mission is to create positive social change for millions of under-served people across the world by providing information and education through innovative media, technology and direct community engagement. We had the honor of having Sherry Ludwig, International Advocacy Chair,

attend our meeting. Sherry flew up from Los Angeles for the program. Thank you **Asha Bajaj** and **Gus Slavin** for this program. Members were exceptionally impressed with Educational Fellowship speaker, **Bethany Lyles Goldblum, Ph.D.**, at the annual AAUW Funds dinner with Delta Kappa Gamma. Dr. Goldblum is a remarkable young woman on the tenure tract at UC Berkeley. Her research interest is in the area of applied nuclear physics.

The February 21 program celebrating Women's History month was a joint effort between **Contra Costa County Interbranch Council of AAUW, Contra Costa League of Women Voters** and **Contra Costa Commission on Women**. The event featured local women authors presenting *Roles Women Played in Contra Costa County History*. Three members of the Danville Alamo Branch spoke. **Catherine Accardi** discussed Women from Walnut Creek. **Carmen Curtis** and **Sonya Seyler**, both dressed in period clothing, represented Mary Ann Jones and Mary Cox Baldwin, early Danville residents. **Traci Parent** discussed early residents of the Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve area and **Beverly Lane** presented information about early San Ramon Valley residents. The event also offered an opportunity for a docent-led tour of the new Lafayette Library. Kudos to **Tena Gallagher** who organized this special event along with Walnut Creek member **Joan Conley** representing the League of Women Voters and Contra Costa Commission on Women.

Thanks to **Dora-Thea Porter** and **Debi Zauner** for organizing all the volunteers for **Expanding Your Horizons** on Saturday, February 27, at Diablo Valley College, San Ramon Campus. There were over 300 young women in attendance.

On **Thursday, March 4, at 7:30 P.M.**, CARE will present, *Half the Sky LIVE*, in movie theatres nationwide. Inspired by the best-selling book and Pulitzer-prize winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, *Half the Sky LIVE* will celebrate International Womens's Day with musical performances and the world premiere of *Woineshet*, a powerful short film directed by Marisa Tomei. The movie will motivate you to participate in the growing movement to empower women and girls in the fight against global poverty. *Half the Sky LIVE* will be playing on the March 4 at 7:30 P.M. at theaters in **Blackhawk, Dublin, and Walnut Creek**.

You asked for it and here it is... Please join us on **March 20 for Our Wellness Panel at the Shadow Hills Cabana at 9:30 A.M.** See related article on Page 1.

#### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...Danville-Alamo member, **Ilene Ferguson, owner of Alamo World Travel**, was voted by The Business Times one of the most successful businesswomen in the Bay Area. The Business Times rated Alamo World Travel 50<sup>th</sup> on its list of the largest woman-owned businesses. It has survived internet competition to thrive. Ilene says clients do their internet research and come to her to pull it all together. By being loyal to her customers, Ilene has been in business 29 years. Congratulations Ilene.

...Past president of Danville-Alamo AAUW, **Claudia Nemir**, will be recognized by the Contra Costa County Commission for Women on March 18 in the category of Women Contributing to the Arts? Congratulations Claudia.

...Member, **Phyllis Duggan**, has been asked to be on the mayor's task force planning the Walnut Creek Library reopening festivities on July 17.

...Member, **Lynn Goodwin**, has a journaling class on line that she teaches, empowering caregivers and other writers.

...Member, **Jennifer Enzinger**, teaches French at the Danville Community Center.



See **PRESIDENT** on Page 3

## Walnut Creek Satellite Connections:

Nancy Pinkosh will be our representative on the scholarship committee next year.

Marilyn Bressler has agreed to be a lead docent for the May garden tour. If she calls, please be generous with your time.

Sue Rainey, Mayor of Walnut Creek, invited us to name a representative to the Library Grand Opening Task Force. The Task Force will assist in planning the festivities. The library is scheduled to open on Saturday, July 17. Phyllis Duggan, a long time supporter of the library, will be our representative. Congratulations and thanks to Phyllis.

GOOD NEWS. The research and Projects Grant 4321 was established in April, 2008 to honor the AAUW CA co-presidency of Rita Wustner and Donna Lilly. The Del Mar-Leucadia, Concord and Walnut Creek Branches sponsored the \$75,000 R&P. As of 12/09, \$80,015 was donated to the R&P, completing the project. Thanks to all who made EF donations supporting this grant! ❖



## CLAUDIA NEMIR, PAST PRESIDENT DA-AAUW

### Recognized for Accomplishments

Branch Past President Claudia Nemir will be recognized by the Contra Costa County Commission for Women. She will be honored on March 18 at the commission's 2010 Women's Hall of Fame Awards Dinner in the Category of Women Contributing to the Arts for her work as a civic arts leader, activist and philanthropist. More information can be found at [www.womenscommission.com](http://www.womenscommission.com). ❖

## NEW MEMBER WELCOME

### Barbara Nuttall

We wish to welcome Barbara Nuttall as our newest member of Danville-Alamo AAUW. Please introduce yourself to her at one of our upcoming events or invite her to attend one with you. Barbara can be reached at 831-1971 or [barnutt@aol.com](mailto:barnutt@aol.com). ❖

## PRESIDENT

*from Page 2*

...AAUW has awarded \$50,000 in Campus Action Project grants to Harvey Mudd College? An additional grant was also awarded to UC Davis. These projects target some of the barriers inhibiting women and girls entering and staying in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

...We have a new movie group headed by **Judy Halden** and **Diane Stein**. Thanks to **Tena Gallagher** for organizing *First Friday Movie Group*.

Spring is on the way. Plan to attend the **AAUW California Convention** at the **San Ramon Marriott** on **April 29–May 2**. This is a great opportunity to see how our state and national AAUW works for us. Mark your calendars for the Danville-Alamo AAUW **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour on May 7 and 8, 10 A.M. –4 P.M.** ❖

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## AAUW ART & GARDEN

### Story Painters: Drawings, Paintings, Prints and Tapestries



Inez Storer courtesy of Bedford Galleries

On Friday, March 19, we're going to the **Bedford Gallery** in Walnut Creek to hear one of our own, **Jan Knadle**, give us a special private docent tour of "Story Painters: Drawings, Paintings, Prints and Tapestries by Squeak Carnwath, Hung Liu, and Inez Storer." "Story Painters" provides our community an opportunity to view a unique survey of three extraordinary artists

living right in our Bay Area backyard. Utilizing figures, personal symbols, and abstract elements, these artists employ a distinctive and highly individual approach to art making, with the fundamentals of story telling at the core of their work.

**Squeak Carnwath** combines personal symbolism with universal imagery to create a remarkable and salient world of stories and riddles on the surface of a canvas. When combined, her pictorial icons create a conversation – both visual and verbal.

**Hung Liu** utilizes story in her artwork to document the Chinese revolution. Liu is a storyteller whose art reflects the turmoil of her life that in turn paralleled the birth and evolution of Chinese communism.

**Inez Storer's** dream-like narratives often employ an uncanny sense of humor and have an aspect of implied history. Her approach ranges from comic book to retablo-like compositions with imagery that brings into play aspects of Surrealism and Magic Realism.

Our tour is at 11:00 A.M. and *Jan is picking up the cost of this tour for our group.* We'll meet at 10:15 A.M. at Sycamore Park n' Ride or the Alamo Safeway complex to carpool to Walnut Creek. Afterwards, we'll lunch in Walnut Creek. Contact Jacque Schubert at 855-7002 or [jacqueschubert@comcast.net](mailto:jacqueschubert@comcast.net) for more information or to sign up. ❖

## TRAVEL GROUP 2

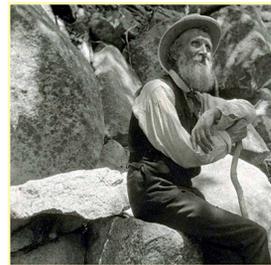
### Calling all leprechaun lovers! Top o' the morning to you...



Please join us at the next Travel Group 2 meeting as we journey to lovely Ireland. John and Tena Gallagher will share the highlights of their journey as they traveled all over the Green Isle searching for John's ancestors. They did not find the legendary pot of gold, but did find his great-grandfather's abandoned house. Come and share the adventure on Friday, March 19 at 7:30 P.M. at the home of John and Tena Gallagher. RSVP: 837-0826 (John and Tena) or 944-5173 (Marcia Steinhardt). Refreshments served. ❖

## DAYTIME BOOK GROUP

### "A Passion for Nature"



A biography of John Muir by Donald Worster will be discussed on March 25, 9:30 A.M., at the home of Mary Ann Osborne. All AAUW book group members are welcome to join us for the discussion, lunch, and a tour of the John Muir National Historic Site.

To receive an e-mailed copy of the menu, e-mail Mary Ann Osborne at [molokaimemories@comcast.net](mailto:molakaimemories@comcast.net). Then, mail your \$5 deposit along with your meal choice to Mary Ann at P.O. Box 214, Alamo 94507 by March 15.

A docent tour of John Muir's home, 4202 Alhambra Avenue, Martinez will start at 1:30 P.M. The tour includes a short film about John Muir and a tour of the two-story home. Site access is \$3 per person. Please arrange your transportation with other attendees. A final attendee list will be sent by March 15. Questions? Phone Mary Ann Osborne at 837-6079 or e-mail her at [molokaimemories@comcast.net](mailto:molakaimemories@comcast.net). ❖

## HIKING GROUP

### Have a BLAST at Point Pinole Regional Park

We will meet at Sycamore Park n Ride at 8:30 A.M. on Tuesday, March 16 and drive to Point Pinole Regional Park which comprises 2,300-acres of meadows, woods, shoreline and marshland. It'll take us 45 minutes to drive to the park. Bring a snack, layers of clothing, water, and \$3 parking fee. Tena Gallagher will lead the hike returning around 1:00 pm. We'll be taking a 4.2 mile relatively flat hike.

The serene landscape belies the park's explosive past. It was once home to four dynamite manufacturing companies that produced more than 2 billion pounds of explosives from 1880 to 1960. The largest, Giant Powder Co., moved to the point in 1892 after major explosions in San Francisco and Berkeley forced the firm to seek more remote territory. In 1915, Atlas Powder bought Giant Powder Co. and introduced safety features such as earthen embankments and rows of eucalyptus to reduce the effects of the explosions. The factory closed in 1960. If you want to see some short videos of its history, go to [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org).

RSVP Tena at [Tena@aol.com](mailto:Tena@aol.com) or Kathie Hixon at [kathiehixon@comcast.net](mailto:kathiehixon@comcast.net) if you plan to join us. ❖

## FIRST FRIDAY FILMS - March 5

Please join us at the home of Kathie Hixon on Friday, March 5, at 7:30 P.M. to discuss *Avatar* and *Crazy Heart*. RSVP to Kathie Hixon at 838-8632 or [kathiehixon@comcast.net](mailto:kathiehixon@comcast.net). ❖

## GOLF - March 6

Meet at Diablo Hills Golf Course on Saturday, March 6 at 9 A.M. for a round of golf. If you plan to play, RSVP to Susan Terzuoli at 820-9071 or [susanterz@hotmail.com](mailto:susanterz@hotmail.com). ❖

## CINEMA 1 - March 7

On Sunday, March 7, at 5 P.M., we're meeting at the home of Barbara Critchlow to watch the **Academy Awards**. RSVP to Barbara at 287-1543 or [bacritchlow@yahoo.com](mailto:bacritchlow@yahoo.com). ❖

## BOOKS II - March 18

Books II will meet on Thursday, March 18 at 10 A.M. to discuss *Luncheon of the Boating Party* by Susan Vreeland. Hosting: Doris Ringot at 934-8199. ❖

## TRAVEL GROUP 2 GOES SIDEWAYS...

### A Solvang Wine Excursion in June!



Remember the movie *Sideways* where two guys celebrate the last days of the bachelorhood of one of them with a Santa Barbara wine tasting trip? Travel Group 2 is offering you a chance to recreate some of that fun with a Sideways/Solvang driving trip in June.

**WHEN:** June 22 - June 25, 2010

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Solvang Petersen Village Inn  
Queen-bedded room \$129/night \* (discounted rate)  
Breakfast included

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- 6/22 Lunch, Lavender tour, and wine tasting at **Bridlewood Winery in Los Olivos** and dinner at The Hitching Post in Solvang
- 6/23 Murals of Lompoc docent-led tour, Lompoc Flower Festival, La Purisima Mission tour, Babcock/Melville/Alma Rosa wine tastings, **Tony-winning musical *Curtain* at Solvang Festival Theater** and dinner
- 6/24 Optional activities include full day in Santa Barbara, **Elverhøj Museum of History & Art in Solvang**, hiking in Nojoqui Falls State Park, wine tasting at Rusack, Fess Parker, Foxen, Cambria, and/or Sunstone wineries.
- 6/25 Return home

This trip is open to members, spouses/significant others, and friends. Enjoy a mini-get-away and make new friends. Do it at your own pace. Join in for 1, 2, or 3 days.

For more details please contact: Ingrid Lara (788-1698) or [ingridlar@yahoo.com](mailto:ingridlar@yahoo.com).

### LIMITED AVAILABILITY

## ADVOCATE DEADLINE

The deadline for submission of articles and announcements to be published in the March newsletter is March 15. E-mail your articles, announcements, or notices to:

Cheryl Kohleriter at [cherylkohleriter@yahoo.com](mailto:cherylkohleriter@yahoo.com)  
Cindy Cassidy at [cassady1@llnl.gov](mailto:cassady1@llnl.gov), and

Articles should be submitted as an attachment in Times New Roman, 10 pt. font.



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## LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

**Updates and Preview of "More Bang for Your Buck,"  
the non-event fundraiser of the year...**

**BY SUSAN TERZUOLI and BARBARA WELCH  
LAF Co-Chairpersons**

On Saturday, January 30 at Crow Canyon Country Club, several of us had the opportunity to hear Michelle Jaureguito Henly, a current California AAUW LAF-supported plaintiff, speak. Michelle, former director of the Upward Bound/Talent Search program at Feather Community College, is one of the three plaintiffs involved in the case that goes to trial in August of this year. The case involves sex discrimination and retaliation in violation of the Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. In August, 2009, the judge submitted a decision to the California State Personnel Board ruling in favor of all three plaintiffs and awarding reinstatement, back pay, and damages. The personnel board rejected the decision. The judge will present an oral argument to the board this summer. The resilience of the three plaintiffs is inspiring. Michelle shared some of the financial, professional and personal hardships she has endured to continue this battle. To date, she and the other two plaintiffs have received over \$117,600 in support from LAF. On several occasions the speaker emotionally expressed her gratitude to the AAUW membership for their continued support of LAF.

This is just one of the ongoing cases that the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund is supporting. To read about this and others visit <http://www.aauw-ca.org/> and click on the advocacy link. As we know, women now make up 51% of the workforce in the United States; therefore, supporting this important work is essential.

In the next several weeks you will be receiving a letter from our branch explaining our spring fundraiser to support the LAF Advocacy Fund. This year, we will not have an event to raise money. By eliminating an event and any operational costs, we can give 100% of our donated dollars to the fund. The fundraising committee members are personally absorbing any mailing costs for the solicitation letter. You will have until the end of April to return your donation in the enclosed envelope. We are hoping for your optimal support in our non-event fundraiser, which we have descriptively named "MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK." ❖



## AAUW FUNDS/EF TENTH ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR

**Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8**

**BY MARY MIX and JACQUE SCHUBERT  
CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, AAUW FUNDS/EF**

The Danville-Alamo AAUW Branch will complete a decade of successful garden tours this year in 2010. Our generous membership has enabled us to reach and exceed our Garden Tour goals each year by giving their time, money, food offerings, and support. We have been able to contribute significant funds to deserving graduate students and community groups to help achieve AAUW's goal of giving all women a chance to grow and succeed.

Eight beautiful and interesting gardens await you with great variety and interesting plantings and hardscape. Mark your calendars early this year and plan to participate in this fun event. We need your help again to insure the success of our tour. Docents are needed at each garden to direct

*See GARDEN on Page 7*



**Upcoming Concerts**  
**December 13, 2009; 3PM**  
East Bay Fellowship  
2615 Camino Tassajara, Danville  
**February 28, 2010; 2PM**  
Blackhawk Museum  
3700 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., Danville  
**April 25, 2010; 6PM**  
Dinner Concert  
Blackhawk Country Club

**Danville Community Band**  
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## PUBLIC POLICY

### Updates on Issues Important to You...

BY CYNTHIA SAVELL  
PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW was encouraged to hear the president, in his first State of the Union address, promise that his administration will crack down on violations of equal pay laws, but disappointed that he didn't press the Senate to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. Please call or write our senators to co-sponsor and vote for this bill.

In claiming that we are close to passing health care reform, the president remained quiet on the need for protecting reproductive rights in health reform legislation in general and on the Stupak amendment in particular. AAUW will be fighting vigorously to see this happen.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA), created to provide students with the option for less expensive government loans as an alternative to private bank loans, has stalled in the Senate. In his State of the Union address, the president announced his plan to lower income-based repayments to only 10% of one's income in addition to forgiving unpaid debt after 20 years. AAUW reaffirms commitment to a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity and diversity, and access to higher education for women and other disadvantaged minorities.

You may log on or sign up for a Twitter account and follow Executive Director Linda Hallman, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Lisa Maatz, and other AAUW members to hear the latest AAUW and public policy news. You can also follow your elected officials and join AAUW's Facebook group.

One of the co-authors of the Shriver Report, Ann O'Leary, will be speaking at the AAUW State Convention on Sunday, May 2, 2010. Ann is a Senior Fellow of the Berkeley Center for Health, Economic and Family Security located at UC Berkeley. She worked in the Clinton administration, among other positions. Additional information about her and about the convention is now online at [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org).

## COFFEE WITH CHARLOTTE

AAUW California's own lobbyist, Charlotte Newhart, will also talk at the AAUW State Convention on Sunday, May 2. She will give an update on current legislation focusing on our statewide public policy priorities. Her expertise is in the political process, improving state programs and services, and preventing changes that would undermine advances. Check [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org) for schedules and further information. ❖



## THANKS, MARGE!

### Our Editor Retires...

Marge Christensen has retired from her editorial position on *The Advocate*. We would like to thank her for the many years she has served as editor and on our board. Cindy Cassidy and Cheryl Kohleriter continue as co-editors. ❖

## GARDEN

*from Page 6*

people and answer questions, with two shifts per day -- about 100 total docents are needed to properly staff our lovely gardens. You can also provide refreshments for our refreshment house and purchase tickets for yourself and your friends.

Jacque Schubert and Mary Mix will be actively soliciting your help in the next few weeks. Please call Jacque at 855-7002 or Mary at 831-1784 to offer your assistance. We know, with your help, we will have another tremendously successful Garden Tour. ❖



## ASUNCION "CHONA" SEVILLANO

**From Cuba to Venezuela and Miami to Danville  
...One Woman's Flight from Communism to Democracy**

BY CAROLINE SANCHEZ



Chona, our next door neighbor, sat at our kitchen table enjoying a cup of coffee my husband, Evan, had brewed for her. "Magnifico" she exclaimed! It was the highlight of her day. Coming from 89-year-old Chona that is quite a statement, considering the life she has led. She recounts her story in Spanish, "I'm too old to learn to speak English, and others should accommodate me." Although when we walk through the stores she reads and understands everything.

Chona had a wonderful life in Habana, Cuba where her parents owned many homes and buildings. She was educated at the *Universidad De Habana* and taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade. She shows me pictures of her very handsome husband, Evilio Sevilliano. His father died when he was nine so he worked while in high school and college as a diamond cutter and polisher for Jewish immigrants who escaped during WWII. In his 20s he won a singing contest in Cuba and was recorded. At the *Universidad De Habana* he was a brilliant student, class president and earned his degree as a CPA. He then worked for the government under President Fulgencio Batista and

was part-time professor at the university at night.

Chona said, "I told him he had to leave the music business if he wanted to marry me. He already had a profession!" They both had careers and married at 30 in 1950. Their son Evelio, Jr. was born in 1955. Life was good for the family until Fidel Castro took over. He told the people he wanted a democracy since Batista was a dictator. However, Fidel turned Communist and life changed for the Cubans including the school books that now included the revolution. Chona and Evelio didn't believe in Communism although they knew Fidel's family. He continued working for Fidel's government and, although he wanted to leave Cuba, he wasn't allowed.

Evelio told Fidel he had to visit his ailing brother in Venezuela. Fidel offered to send a plane for his brother, but Evilio declined. He left November, 1961 and then sent money to a priest to buy Chona's ticket. She left with her 6-year-old son in December leaving her money, home, furnishings, cars and all her possessions. She couldn't give her family anything as her home was inspected before she left. She was only allowed to take her wedding ring. At the airport her young son was searched. "It was horrible to hear him crying while they even removed his underwear." Later her mother, sister and husband left for Miami in a plane offered by the U.S. although they had to relinquish all of Chona's father's real estate holdings.

Four years later their daughter Betty was born. Starting from nothing in Venezuela they did well. Her husband was employed with a textile company and years later became the CFO. Her son, Evilio, Jr. attended Catholic schools and went two years to *La Universidad Simon Bolivar* in Caracas with a triple major in engineering. Interested in Physics, he received a government scholarship to the University of Washington in Seattle, where he received his Master's and PhD degrees. He married his high school sweetheart and they had two sons.

Chona and her husband bought a second home in Miami and traveled to the U.S. to shop and visit their son's family in Boston. She owned a jewelry store in Caracas for 15 years. Betty attended the *Universidad De Venezuela* in Caracas. The saddest day of Chona's life was when Betty, 22, went in for a minor procedure to remove a small growth on her leg. She was given too much anesthesia and died in the hospital. To this day Chona refuses to go to doctors.

When Evelio retired, they downsized their home in Venezuela and when he became ill they sold their house in Miami, giving her furnishings

away, which she regrets. Evelio died in 1983; then her life in Venezuela consisted of going for coffee or lunch daily with her friend's. Two years ago at age 87, with no family left in Venezuela, life was becoming more difficult and food was scarce as President Hugo Chavez was another Communist leader. She sold her home, gave away all of her belongings and moved to the U.S. bringing only Betty's photographs and paintings by her husband. She has learned not to be attached to worldly goods since she has left two countries with Communist leaders.

Chona now lives here in Danville with her son, a widower of 10 years, and his new wife Betsy. She misses her friends and people who speak Spanish, so she spends her days reading novellas. These days, I enjoy her visits and her stories and I have become more fluent in Spanish. ❖



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Authorized to Offer  
**AARP** Long Term Care Insurance  
insured by Genworth Life  
Insurance Company

Danville Alamo Branch  
AAUW Member

## LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

**Application Deadline: April 5**

In June, at our installation, we will be awarding local scholarships to women of the San Ramon Valley. If you know of any woman who will be a junior in college or above, including graduate school, in the fall of 2010 and is a graduate of a SRVUSD high school or resided in the district while attending a private school, she is eligible to apply. This is applicable to students resuming their education as well. The Jane Trittipio Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a deserving applicant studying in the area of health sciences. The scholarship application is available on the branch website [www.aauw-da.org](http://www.aauw-da.org). The deadline is **April 5, 2010**. If you have any questions, please contact [jenniferbrandenburg@msn.com](mailto:jenniferbrandenburg@msn.com) or [bclark143@comcast.net](mailto:bclark143@comcast.net). ❖

## AAUW ART CONTEST

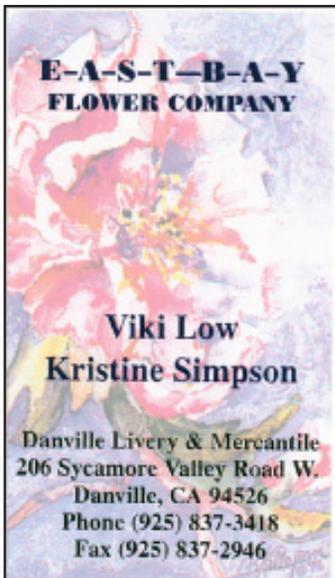
**Voting Ends March 11**

VOTING HAS NOW OPENED and there are over 300 wonderful entries from which to choose. Four of our members, Marian Bliss, Jan Hersh, Dora-Thea Porter and Caroline Sanchez, have submitted paintings, photographs, and sketches—a wide selection of subject matter and media. Below are their entries.

AAUW members can vote for up to **six (6)** of their favorite images **once every seven days** until March 11. Every time you vote, you will automatically be entered into a drawing to win one of ten \$25 gift certificates to *ShopAAUW*. Those entries that receive the most votes will appear in the 2010-2011 AAUW calendar. To vote for your favorites, click on <http://www.aauw.org/contests/gallery.cfm> and look for a) *Lady in Hat*, b) *Paris*, c) *After Rain*, d) *Afternoon Sun Big Sur*, e) *Rubies and Doily*, f) *Morning Mooring* and g) *Little Italian Shop*. Vote, mark your calendar and vote the next week again. Let's hear it for our branch! ❖



**E-A-S-T-B-A-Y  
FLOWER COMPANY**



**Viki Low  
Kristine Simpson**

Danville Livery & Mercantile  
206 Sycamore Valley Road W.  
Danville, CA 94526  
Phone (925) 837-3418  
Fax (925) 837-2946

### 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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**Jennifer Krommenhoek**  
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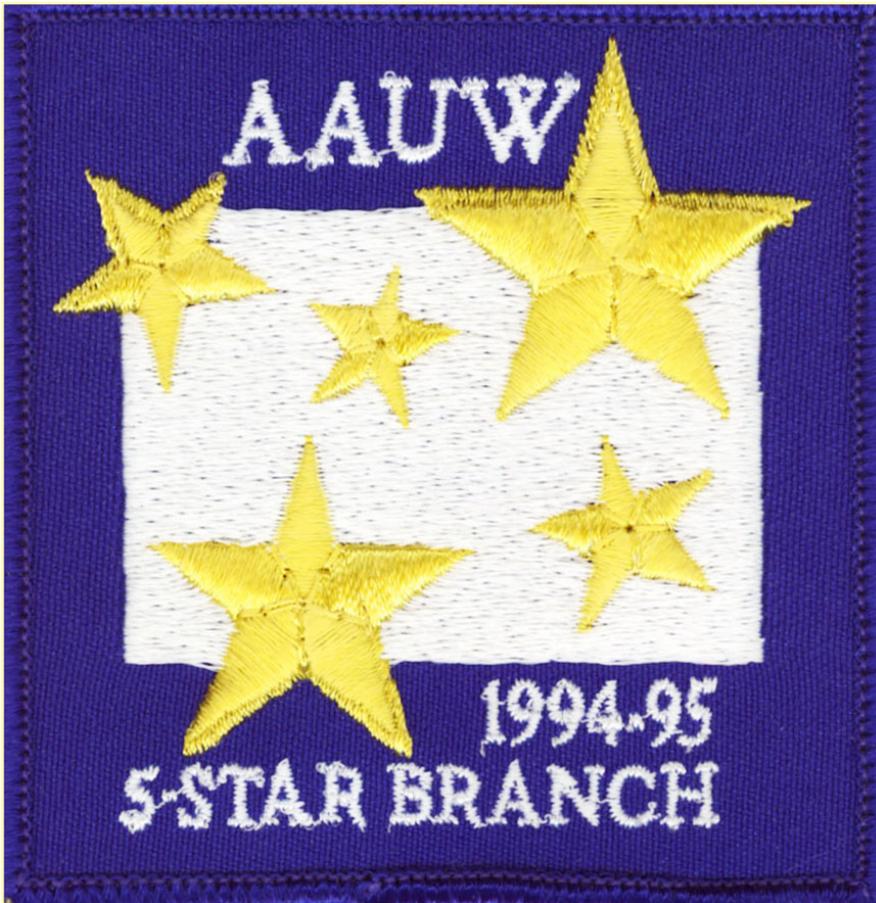
People &  
Properties

**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

**E-mail**  
[jenniferjk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jenniferjk@sbcglobal.net)  
360 Diablo Road  
Danville, CA 94526

# THE ADVOCATE

## AAUW-DA HISTORICAL REVIEW



### 1994 5-Star Award for New Members

In 1988, DA-AAUW achieved the largest net membership growth among all AAUW branches nationwide and received a \$300 check from National.

## 2009-10 BRANCH PROGRAMS

03/20	9:30 A.M.	<b>Wellness Panel.</b> Shadow Hills Cabana. Send \$8.00 check to Danville-Alamo Branch, Box 996, Alamo, CA 94507. See Page 7 for details.
March/ April	---	<b>LAF Event: <i>MORE BANG FOR YOUR BUCK</i>...</b> A Non-Event Fundraiser.
04/30 - 05/02	---	<b>AAUW-CA Convention.</b> San Ramon Marriott.
05/07 - 05/08	10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.	<b>Annual Garden Tour.</b> An AAUW Funds/EF Benefit.
06/04	5:30 P.M.	<b>Installation and Awards Presentation.</b> At the home of Charlene Vorous, Danville, CA.

## MONTHLY CALENDAR FOR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

03/02 03/09 03/16 03/23 03/30	10:00 A.M.	<b>Mah Jongg.</b> Weekly meeting at various locations. Contact Paula Weintraub at pauladuck@yahoo.com.
03/05	11:30 A.M.	<b>WC: Adventurous Chefs.</b> Contact Phyllis Sheller at 280-0437. [WAIT LIST]
03/05	7:30 P.M.	<b>First Friday Films.</b> <i>Avatar</i> and <i>Crazy Heart</i> . Hosting: Kathie Hixon at 838-8632.
03/06	9:00 A.M.	<b>Golf.</b> Diablo Hills Golf Course. RSVP to Susan Terzuoli at 820-9071.
03/07	5:00 P.M.	<b>Cinema 1.</b> <i>Academy Awards</i> night. Hosting: Barbara Critchlow at 287-1543.
03/08	7:00 P.M.	<b>Board Meeting.</b> Marian Bliss and Kathie Hixon, Co-Presidents. Shadow Hills Cabana, 1001 El Capitan Drive, Danville.
03/09	11:30 A.M.	<b>WC: Movies n' Lunch.</b> Contact Diane Stangel at 939-0373.
03/10	7:30 P.M.	<b>Evening Bridge.</b> Hosting: Anne Long at 831-8649.
03/11	1:00 P.M.	<b>Writers' Group.</b> Hosting: Cheryl Kohleriter at 820-6158.
03/11	---	<b>AAUW Art Contest Voting Ends Today.</b> See Page 9 for details.
03/12	9:30 A.M.	<b>Bagel Street Chats.</b> Bagel Street Cafe, Livery. Contact Marian Bliss at 830-4709 or Kathie Hixon at 838-8632.
03/15	---	<b>ADVOCATE DEADLINE.</b> E-mail your articles to Cheryl Kohleriter, and Cindy Cassady by noon today.
03/15	10:00 A.M.	<b>Daytime Bridge.</b> Contact Mary Kay Anderson at 837-6902.
03/16	8:30 A.M.	<b>Hiking Group.</b> Point Pinole Regional Park hike. Meet at Sycamore Park 'n Ride to carpool. See Page 4 for details.
03/17	7:30 P.M.	<b>WC: Travel Section 1.</b> Contact Mimi Knox at <a href="mailto:mimiaknox@comcast.net">mimiaknox@comcast.net</a> for details.
03/18	10:00 A.M.	<b>WC: Books II.</b> <i>Luncheon of the Boating Party</i> by Susan Vreeland. Hosting: Doris Ringot at 934-8199.
03/19	9:30 A.M.	<b>Art &amp; Garden.</b> <i>Story Painters</i> at Bedford Gallery. Contact Jacque Schubert at 855-7002. See Page 4 for details.
03/19	7:30 P.M.	<b>Travel Group 2.</b> A journey to Ireland. Hosting: John and Tena Gallagher at 837-0826. See Page 4 for details.
03/22	6:30 P.M.	<b>WC: Epicureans.</b> Contact Judy Finch at 946-0249. [WAIT LIST]
03/22	9:30 A.M.	<b>Daytime Duplicate Bridge.</b> Contact Sandy Hoffman at 837-8759.
03/23	7:30 P.M.	<b>Evening Literature.</b> <i>Girl with the Dragon Tattoo</i> by Steig Larson. Hosting: Bev Nidick at 828-6993.
03/24	9:30 A.M.	<b>WC: Contemporary Books.</b> <i>The Lemon Tree</i> by Sandy Tolan. Hosting: Ann Shelton at 682-5672.
03/25	9:30 A.M.	<b>Daytime Literature.</b> <i>A Passion for Nature</i> by Donald Worster. Also included: Lunch and ocent tour of John Muir's home. Hosting: Mary Ann Osborne at 833-6079. See Page 4 for details.

### CO-PRESIDENTS:

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**Kathie Hixon**  
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### WEBMASTER:

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P. O. Box 996  
Alamo, CA 94507

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## 10th ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR

Friday, May 7 & Saturday, May 8  
10-4

**BE A DOCENT ONE DAY!  
TOUR THE GARDENS  
THE NEXT!**



**SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS  
DOCENTS NEEDED!**

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

