

THE ADVOCATE



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

Issue 3 • November, 2010

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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

Virginia Gildersleeve: Who is she? and Why Should I Care?*

The ability to think straight, some knowledge of the past, some vision of the future, some skill to do useful service, some urge to fit that service into the well-being of the community—these are the most vital things education must try to produce. Virginia Gildersleeve

Come to our International Affairs meeting on Wednesday, November 17, to find out why Virginia Gildersleeve has an important place in women's history and why AAUW supports the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF).

Our own Jo Harberson has been an active member of the VGIF, which for over 40 years has provided grants for educational projects and other community development projects to improve the condition of women and girls all over the world --- long before micro-financing became a non-governmental organization (NGO) catch-phrase.

Jo, an informative and dynamic speaker, will give you the background about Gildersleeve and how and why the VGIF exists today. VGIF has been an affiliate with national AAUW for many years, and our own branch supports VGIF as a branch member. Jo will also share with us her experiences as a member of the AAUW delegation to Cuba to study women's place in Cuban society.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 17

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

A light salad supper will be provided

For information or to RSVP, contact Gus Slavin at slavinfamily@hotmail.com. This is a no-charge event.

***She was the only woman appointed by President Franklin Roosevelt to the U.S. Delegation that established the United Nations and the first woman in the United States to sign a United States treaty. ❖**

Branch Name Change

We are happy to inform you that we are in the process of completing the last few steps to make our name change to AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek a reality. We received more than a quorum of membership responses on the vote and the motion was passed with an over whelming majority. Thank you for all your responses. Once we receive word back from the State, we will be officially calling ourselves AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek. ❖

Advocate By Mail

If you would like to receive the Advocate by snail mail instead of email, there is a \$10 charge to cover costs of printing and postage. To be added to the **Hardcopy List**, please mail a check for \$10 made out to Danville-Alamo AAUW and send it to Debbie Wiener, 130 Linhares Lane, Alamo, CA 94507. ❖

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

BY MARY MIX and MARCIA STEINHARDT
CO-PRESIDENTS

There is crispness in the air, which indicates that our holiday season will soon be upon us. We begin the festivities with our International Program on November 17 at Shadow Hills Cabana at 6:30 P.M. The featured speaker will be our very own Jo Harberson who will be speaking about the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, which provides small grants for grass roots projects that empower women and girls in developing countries. Jo will also share with us her experiences as a member of the AAUW delegation to Cuba to study women's place in Cuban society. A light salad supper will be served at this complimentary program. Many thanks to our Program Vice Presidents, Pat Gross and Karen Large, for providing a most informative program on "Women in Transition, Financial Literary." We all enjoyed a sampling of appetizers along with sips of sherry.



Marcia Steinhardt
Co-President



Mary Mix
Co-President

Our AAUW California website now has an "ACTION ALERT" link that you may click on to get more information and view the pending status of California and national legislation in which AAUW has an interest and/or on which they have taken a position. You can inform yourself about the specifics of this legislation and find out what you can do to voice your support or opposition. If you wish to contact your U. S. Representative, Senator, or State Legislator, the resources and information you need are contained there.

We hope to see you all at one of our beautifully decorated homes on our Holiday Home Tour this year, which will be held on Friday and Saturday, December 10 and 11. After the tour, please remember to join us for our holiday post-party on Saturday night December 11 at the beautiful Alamo home of Carol and Dave Highton.

As Thanksgiving approaches and we sit back to give thanks for our many blessings, we want to thank all of you, our dedicated and tireless AAUW members, who are the heart and soul of our organization. We appreciated each and every one of you. Enjoy your holiday. ❖

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

The recently passed State of California budget has many flaws. This problem has attracted the interest of AAUW CA, proposing to its branches that they begin a serious study to find ways to improve the budget process. One problem of the current legislature is the 2/3 vote required by the State Senate and the State Assembly to pass the budget. The governor can veto all or part of the budget. If that happens, it takes a 2/3 vote in each house to override a veto and undo changes by the governor. Proposition 25 on the November ballot would lower the vote needed to pass the budget from the current 2/3 to a majority, 50 percent plus one. This proposition does not change the 2/3 vote required for lawmakers to raise taxes, and could speed up the process to pass a budget. Other factors involved with budget passage were costly entitlements in a time of severe economic stress. Revenue from taxpayers was dangerously low. There simply was not enough money to fund this spending. The need for pension reform is evident. Workers will have to contribute to their pensions so they can be sustained in the years ahead. California has a high percentage of jobless workers, and some state projects to help with job finding had to be cut or eliminated. The governor promised not to make funding cuts for higher education, but cut elsewhere. The size of the deficit is astounding, nearly twenty billion dollars, and reducing that amount was difficult. State buildings are being sold and leased back to raise funds. It is hoped that federal aid to California will exceed five billion dollars. Continuing spending cuts and temporary tax increases have helped with balancing the budget, but the economic picture for the state is still not good. These are just a few of the many continuing budget problems besetting the legislature. Our branch will have a small study group look at the enormity of budget problems and suggest some ideas to improve the process. These will be sent to the AAUW CA Board, who will then compile the information from participating branches into a final report to go to the new governor in March, 2011. We need the help of interested branch members for this study. Please contact Cynthia Savell and Rita Wustner with your ideas and participate with us in this very special project.

Before the Senate recessed to return home and campaign for the November elections, Senator Harry Reid filed a cloture petition on the Paycheck Fairness Act. This means the Senate will vote on it after they reconvene on November 15 following the election. If you haven't done so, please call your senate offices and ask the senators to call in their chits and ask fellow senators to pass this very important bill. We know that Senators Feinstein and Boxer will vote for the bill, but their influence with other senators is an important part of successfully passing this bill. When it passes, be sure to call their offices again and thank your senators! All working women deserve this help.

A White House community college summit was held recently where President Obama called on colleges to produce an additional five million graduates by 2020. Community colleges saw a 17 percent enrollment surge between 2007 and 2009. The summit led by Dr. Jill Biden highlighted new partnerships between community colleges and major corporations. It also featured commitments from private institutions, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which announced the launch of a \$35 million, five-year competitive grant program to boost graduation rates.

The United States Supreme Court opened its new term with three women justices on the bench at the same time! This is an historic event and one we should especially appreciate. Its newest member, Justice Elena Kagan, a former Solicitor General, has had to recuse herself from cases in which she participated in the old court. One case sure to make its appearance at the Supreme Court in the near future is the controversial Health Care for all Americans bill that Congress passed just months ago. It mandates that all Americans must be included or face being fined. Already, Attorneys General of several states are lining up to facilitate getting this case ready and accepted as soon as possible. ❖

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!

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People &
Properties

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KUDOS TO CALIFORNIA and DANVILLE

Danville-Alamo AAUW Funds Dominate in Fund Raising

by Jacque Schubert and Dianne Tinnes

AAUW Funds Co-Vice Presidents

Last fiscal year through June 30, 2010, AAUW California donated \$467,119 to AAUW Funds, with our Danville-Alamo Branch taking SECOND PLACE in amount donated. Danville-Alamo was also in THIRD PLACE in donations per capita. WOW!! Our branch should be so proud of the generosity of its members and our willingness to volunteer during the annual Garden Tour to make this all happen.

Here is another example of how AAUW Funds monies are used to foster our mission to bring equity to women and girls. The Leadership Programs Fund is one of the lesser-known funds under the AAUW Funds umbrella. Twelve Campus Action Project (CAP) Grants were given out last fiscal year to 12 institutions – two in California. All Campus Action Projects have to focus on some key findings from recent AAUW research on women and girls in science, technology, engineering and math in three areas: middle school, high school, college and university and the workplace. In California, UC Davis and Harvey Mudd College received CAP Grants. Members from each team present their projects at the annual National Conference on College Women Student Leaders, commonly called NCCWSL, in June in Washington, D.C. In its 25th year, the focus of NCCWSL is to provide opportunities for women to learn how to be a leader in a female-centered environment. In 2009, over 400 women attended from 44 states plus Washington, D.C., Jamaica, and Tibet. It is the only conference in the country that brings together college women for diverse leadership experiences. ❖

PAST PRESIDENTS' BOOK SALE

A Successful Fund Raiser

by Pat Foster

I wish to thank everyone who supported our recent book sale at the Membership Brunch. We had a large number of books, which members and friends eagerly purchased. After taking several bags of books to a used bookstore for their purchase, the total amount raised was \$200. This money will now become a discretionary fund for the co-presidents to use as they see fit.

THANK YOU to all who helped with this sale: Arlene Barnett, Dot Healy, Chris Winter, Pat DeRensis, Kathie Hixon, Anne Long, Gus Slavin, Marian Bliss and Judy Lauper. ❖

SAN RAMON BRANCH INVITATION

Fund Raiser and Silent Auction

by Tena Gallagher

The San Ramon Branch of AAUW is selling Entertainment Books for their local scholarship fund. Anyone who would like to purchase an Entertainment Book can call Julie Gin at 828-8275. She will deliver the book to them.

We are also invited to their branch's Silent Auction/Boutique on December 2 at the San Ramon Library from 7:00 – 8:30 P.M. They have some wonderful items that were donated this year. ❖

NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Announcing our Newest Member

by Sharon Cohune

We are pleased to welcome Fari Falaki as our newest member. Fari is a 1981 graduate of Indiana University and a Danville resident. She can be contacted at farifalaki@yahoo.com or 406-4114. Please introduce yourself to her at one of our upcoming events or invite her to attend one with you.



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 - November 19

On Friday, November 19, we'll travel to the San Francisco Contemporary Jewish Museum to see "Curious George Saves the Day: The Art of Margret and H.A. Rey." Meeting in Brazil, illustrator H.A. Rey and his author/artist wife Margret married in the mid-1930s and settled in Paris to collaborate on books, primarily for children. In June, 1940, with the German occupation imminent, the Reys left Paris on the first leg of a nerve-jangling journey through France, Spain, Portugal and Brazil – destination New York – by bicycle, train, ship and grit. Stopped by officials, their benign manuscripts, including a children's book "Fifi: The Adventures of a Monkey," allowed the Reys to avoid suspicion and make their way to New York. Fifi became George, and through his exploits, became thoroughly Americanized. You'll see 80 original drawings, watercolors and photographs and review the Reys' escape from Nazi Europe. "Curious George," since its publication in 1941, has sold 27 million copies in more than a dozen languages.

Cost is \$10/person (\$8/person for seniors), and we will lunch in San Francisco after our tour. We'll meet at either the Sycamore Park 'n Ride or Alamo Safeway Plaza to carpool to Walnut Creek BART. For more info, contact Jacques Schubert at 855-7002 or jacqueschubert@comcast.net. ❖

INTERNATIONAL GOURMET - November 6 A Chinese New Year Celebration

Everyone is invited to participate in the International Gourmet group's dinner celebration of the Chinese New Year on Saturday, November 6 at 6:30 P.M. Participants prepare one recipe from our listing and share in the bounty at our dinner.

The menu and recipes, which are pre-assigned, are listed at <http://www.aauw-da.org/gourmet/ChineseNewYear/chinesegourmet/pdf>. Please select your preferred cooking assignment and send it as a request to rkrane@yahoo.com. Assignments are given on a first-come, first-assigned basis.

The meeting place will be designated at a later date. If you have any questions, please contact Roseann Krane at 552-9799 or rkrane@yahoo.com. ❖

BEADS TO JEWELRY - November 4

Everyone is invited to the new **Beads to Jewelry** daytime section, chaired by Gail Clark and Roseann Krane. We will be meeting at the home of Roseann Krane on Thursday, November 4 at 1:30 P.M.

If you have made jewelry previously, please bring any item you have made to share. RSVP to Roseann at rkrane@yahoo.com. Please e-mail Roseann if you desire future meetings to be on a certain time and date. ❖

CINEMA 1 - November 12

Meet at the home of Roberta Black to discuss *The Social Network* and *The Town*. RSVP to Roberta at 838-9057 820-8847. ❖

TRAVEL GROUP - November 19

We are delighted to have Marcia and Herb Steinhardt present "Tulips, Windmills, Cheese, Chocolates, and Bicycles" a travel review from their trip to Holland on Friday, November 19 at 7:30 P.M. This event is open to all members. Please RSVP to Karen Larkin at aauw.da.travgrp2@att.net. ❖

DAYTIME LITERATURE - November 18

Meet at the home of Robin Halloran at 9:30 A.M. to discuss *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana DeRosnay. RSVP to Robin at 7438262 or robinh5@earthlink.net. ❖



HOLIDAY HOME TOUR 2011

- Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11

Don't forget! It's coming right up! It's sneaking up on you.....it's the AAUW's 6th Annual Holiday Home Tour on Friday, December 10 and Saturday, December 11.

Once again there will be five wonderful homes with terrific holiday decorations for you to view and take away some ideas for your own holiday decorating. All homes are located in the Danville, Alamo and Blackhawk area, so driving will be easy. Blackhawk has some delicious new restaurants you just HAVE to try. There is a fabulous home with a fantastic back yard that will be our refreshment home, so don't miss those goodies, too.

Remember this is only one of our two fundraisers for our group. These funds will send young girls to our Tech Trek camp and help local women complete their college education through our local scholarships.

Plan to buy your ticket early and don't forget your friends. Make it a girls day out...home viewing, lunch break, and more homes, finishing up at the refreshment house for that touch of dessert.

We will be collecting non-perishable food items at each home for the local food bank. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

Tickets can be bought at East Bay Flower Company in the Livery and Mercantile, 206 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., Danville (cash or checks, please) or mailed to AAUW Holiday Home Tour, 255 Morris Ranch Ct., Danville, CA 94526. You MUST include a business size self-addressed, stamped envelope so we may send you your tickets. Make your check payable to "Danville-Alamo AAUW." Tickets, go on sale November 1. Cost is \$30 each if postmarked by December 3, \$35 thereafter; \$25.00 for seniors 65 and over.

For questions, e-mail holidaytour@aauw-da.org or call Ingrid at 788-1698 or Robin at 743-8262.

See you there with bells on!

2010-11 BRANCH PROGRAMS

11/17	6:30 P.M.	International Program. Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund. Guest Speaker: Jo Harberson. Light supper served. Shadow Hills Cabana, El Capitan Dr., Danville.
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.	DKG/AAUW Combined Program. Scotts Seafood Restaurant, Walnut Creek.
03/12	11:00 A.M.	Luncheon Program. San Ramon Valley Museum 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.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR: SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

11/02 11/09 11/16 11/23 11/30	10:00 A.M.	Mah Jongg. Weekly meetings at various locations. Contact Paula Weintraub at pauladuck@yahoo.com
11/04	1:30 P.M.	Beads to Jewelry. Bring previously made jewelry to share or come to learn. Hosting: Roseann Krane at rkrane@yahoo.com.
11/05	11:30 A.M.	Adventurous Chefs. Contact Phyllis Sheller at 280-0437. [WAIT LIST]
11/05	7:30 P.M.	First Friday Films. <i>The Social Network</i> and <i>Waiting for Superman</i> . Hosting: Kathie Hixon at 804-6948.
11/06	6:30 P.M.	International Gourmet. A Chinese New Year celebration. For information, contact Roseann Krane at 552-9799 or rkrane@yahoo.com. See Page 5 for details.
11/09	11:30 A.M.	Movies n' Lunch. <i>Never Let Me Go</i> , <i>Secretariat</i> , and <i>The Social Network</i> . Meet at OIC Bowl, 1616 North Main, WC. Contact Diane Stangel at 939-0373.
11/10	7:30 P.M.	Evening Bridge. For details, contact Barbara Nexson at 837-9625.
11/12	9:00 A.M.	Board Meeting. Mary Mix and Marcia Steinhardt, Co-Presidents. Shadow Hills Cabana, 1001 El Capitan Drive, Danville.
11/12	7:30 P.M.	Cinema I. <i>The Social Network</i> and <i>The Town</i> . Hosting: Roberta Black at 820-8847.
11/12	7:30 P.M.	Oscar I. Movie TBA. For details, contact Sharon Cohune at 648-5153.
11/13	TBA	Golf. TBA. Contact Marian Bliss at 820-4709.
11/15	---	ADVOCATE DEADLINE. E-mail your articles to Cheryl Kohleriter and Cindy Cassady by Noon today.
11/15	10:00 A.M.	Daytime Party Bridge. Hosting: Roseann Krane at 552-9799.
11/17	9:30 A.M.	Contemporary Books. <i>Olive Kitteridge</i> by Elizabeth Strout. Hosting: Nancy Pinkosh.
11/18	9:30 A.M.	Daytime Literature. <i>Sarah's Key</i> by Tatiana DeRosnay. Hosting: Robin Halloran at 743-8262.
11/18	10:00 A.M.	Books II. <i>The Help</i> by Katherine Stockett. Contact Doris Ringot at dring@ifn.net for information and meeting location.
11/19	9:30 A.M.	Art & Garden. <i>Curious George Saves the Day: The Art of Margret and H.A. Rey</i> exhibit. See Page 5 for details.
11/19	7:30 P.M.	Travel Group. Holland travels. RSVP to Karen Larkin at aauw.da.travgrp2@att.net .
11/20	7:30 P.M.	Epicureans. Contact Judy Finch at 946-0249. [WAIT LIST]
11/21	12:30 P.M.	Hiking Group. Briones Regional Park. Meet at Sycamore Park and Ride. RSVP to Tena Gallagher at tena@aol.com .
11/22	9:30 A.M.	Daytime Duplicate Bridge. Contact Sandy Hoffman at 837-8759.

CO-PRESIDENTS

Mary Mix
Marcia Steinhardt

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Pat Gross

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Roseann Krane Dora-Thea Porter



P. O. Box 996
Alamo, CA 94507

HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

***FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10 and
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11
11 A.M. - 4 P.M.***

**Followed by
BRANCH HOLIDAY PARTY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 6:30 P.M.**

Highton Home

Bring Sweet or Savory Appetizer

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