

THE ADVOCATE



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

Issue 1 • September, 2010

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MEMBERSHIP BRUNCH

Please join us for the 2010 Danville-Alamo AAUW Membership Brunch with guest speaker, Beth Greer, an award-winning journalist, holistic health advocate and radio talk show host, who will talk on *Three Steps to a Green, Clean and Healthy Home*.

Saturday, September 25, 2010

9:30 A.M. -12:30 P.M.

Crow Canyon Country Club
711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville



While at the brunch you can:

Check out the latest Interest Groups
Shop the Past Presidents' Book Sale
Meet old and new friends
Enjoy a delicious Brunch Buffet

Learn about upcoming events
Hear from the Jubilee Scholarship Awardee
Meet our Tech Trek Recipients
Enjoy the featured speaker, BETH GREER.

Anyone who brings a guest to the Membership Brunch and signs up a new member that day will receive a special gift for this contribution to our recruiting effort. **This will be a "Shape the Future" event.** Dues are greatly reduced if guests join that day.

For further information, please contact our membership vice presidents: Laurel Harken at 788-6793 or Karen Schlumpp at 899-6741. For detailed information on this event and Beth Greer, visit <http://www.aauw-da.org/membershipEvent.html>.

2010 Danville-Alamo AAUW Membership Brunch Reservation Form

Name: _____

e-mail: _____ phone: _____

I will be bringing a potential new member or guest. Name: _____

COST PER PERSON IS \$27.00 Total remitted: \$ _____

Please send this reservation form and check payable to Danville-Alamo AAUW to
Laurel Harken, 1845 Castle Gate Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 20.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

BY MARY MIX and MARCIA STEINHARDT
CO-PRESIDENTS

As we tuck away our swimsuits and beach towels and enjoy the last of summer's bountiful fruits, we are also looking forward to the coming fall season as a time for reconnection and new adventures. As we move forward and embrace the changes needed to be a relevant and responsive organization for our members and to the community, we are looking for new ways of reaching out. Our theme this year is "Strengthening Connections." In keeping with this focus, we have established a Hospitality Committee that will be chaired by Sharon Cohune and Holly Sauer. Its purpose will be to foster relationships and provide support to our members through quarterly neighborhood "socials." We are also launching a Community Liaison Committee that will be chaired by Pat De Rensis and Christy Campbell. The purpose of this committee will be to increase our visibility and strengthen our community connections by joining together to work on local issues that are relevant



Marcia Steinhardt
Co-President



Mary Mix
Co-President

to our mission. And, finally, with the merger of the Walnut Creek and Danville-Alamo branches now complete, we will be looking into how we can acknowledge our many Walnut Creek members in the renaming of our expanded branch.

We hope that you have saved Saturday, September 25 on your calendars to attend our annual membership brunch. Karen Schlumpp and Laurel Harken, our Membership Co-Vice Presidents, have worked very hard and planned a wonderful morning for you at Crow Canyon Country Club where Beth Greer, award-winning journalist and holistic health advocate, will be our main speaker.

Hope to see you there!

Past Presidents' Book Sale

BY PAT FOSTER

The annual Membership Brunch is coming soon, and once again we are having a Past Presidents' Book Sale. The date for the brunch is September 25. We love to accept donations from all members. So, start cleaning off your shelves to find books to donate. We also will need shopping bags for the sale. This has always been a successful event due to your participation. Therefore, I am thanking you in advance for all your support.

Marian Bliss has offered her front porch as a drop off spot, BUT not until the week before, beginning September 18. Marian's address is 357 Conway Dr., Danville. I will collect the books from her and bring them to the brunch. I will be out of town until September 20, but after that you can also drop them off at my house – 35 Bottlebrush Ct., Danville. Or, you can bring them early in the morning on the day of the brunch.

Even if you do not donate any books, please come early and shop for some! Looking forward to seeing you at the Brunch.

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PUBLIC POLICY

BY CYNTHIA SAVELL

In the California November 2nd election, voters have a variety of measures to consider. Proposition 19 would legalize marijuana and allow it to be regulated and taxed. Proposition 20 would place the responsibility of redistricting congressional districts in the hands of a 14 member commission of 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans and 4 people registered differently. Proposition 21 would provide an \$18 auto license fee for most vehicles which would help fund state parks. Those who paid this fee would get free admission into all state parks. Proposition 22 would prohibit the state from taking money from dedicated funds and putting them into the general fund. Proposition 23 would suspend California's anti-global warming restrictions until unemployment drops below 5.5% of four consecutive quarters. Proposition 24 would allow multistate businesses to use a sales based income calculation rather than a combination of property, payroll and sales based income calculation. Proposition 25 would end the 2/3 supermajority requirement for the state legislature to pass the budget. It would require the 2/3 majority for raising taxes however. Proposition 26 would require the state legislature to pass all new taxes by a 2/3 super majority. It also requires a vote on all local taxes and fees. Proposition 27 would eliminate the 14 member panel that will be charged with redrawing the lines of the state legislature and state board of equalization. Proposition 18, which would have provided for an \$11.1 billion bond measure to update the water supply and transmission system in California has had so many opponents that it has been removed from ballot listing and will have to roll over onto the next governor's desk for revision.

State government employment has risen by 16% since 1995. Pension obligations for public workers are threatening to drive the state budget into disaster. A possible changeover in the U.S. Congress might signal a denial to bail out state governments who cannot curb budget expenses like California's. Mighty entitlements, which have made a better life for its citizens, are also threatening California's budget. After all, other states that have tightened their belts and curbed expenditures will show no mercy to California in the future.

Federal judge Vaughn Walker in his ruling has allowed same sex couples to marry in California beginning August 18. This isn't the end; it is just the beginning of initiating more appeals to block these marriages, going all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, if it wishes to hear the case. The opponents of Walker's ruling, the defendant interveners, who have already filed papers, will have to show real harm to traditional marriage to gain any standing with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. As of this writing, no other groups have joined the proponents to block same sex marriages in the next round of court hearings. AAUW warned us in the beginning that with the passage of Proposition 8, when one group of our citizens is denied equal protection under the law, we all suffer. In changing the wording of the California Constitution to deny protection to any of our citizens, we did just that. Now, the next phase of this drama has just been announced. Same sex marriage has been placed on indefinite hold as judges and litigants go about the next legal steps.

Danville-Alamo AAUW

GOOD DEEDS

to benefit and support those so deserving

BETTER PROGRAMS

to bolster our interest and raise our awareness

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Governor Schwarzenegger has nominated Tani Cantil-Sakauye, an appellate court justice to be chief justice of the California Supreme Court. She is a former prosecutor and Sacramento Superior Court judge and would replace Chief Justice Ronald George, who has announced he will retire January 2, 2011. Cantil-Sakauye has been on the 3rd District Court of Appeals since 2005. If she is approved by a three-member commission and by voters in November, she would begin a 12-year term

Layout Editor Wanted

The staff of *The Advocate* seeks a layout editor for the 2011-12 year. Have you ever wanted to be a part of an exciting publication? No experience is necessary, but InDesign experience is helpful.

Contact Cheryl Kohleriter at cherylkohleriter@yahoo.com for further information.

TENA GALLAGHER RESEARCH & PROJECTS GRANT

BY JACQUE SCHUBERT AND DIANNE TINNES
AAUW FUNDS/EF CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

AAUW National has accepted our application for the \$75,000 **Tena Gallagher Research & Projects Grant, #4353**. The Danville-Alamo Branch has taken on the responsibility of funding this grant over the next 10 years. This year we have already contributed \$17,000 towards fulfillment of this grant due to the success of the 2010 Garden Tour and the generous donations of our members. Grant recipients perform research in a wide range of disciplines and work to improve their schools and communities. Their intellect, dedication, imagination, and effort promise to forge new paths in scholarship, improve the quality of life for all, and tackle the educational and social barriers facing women in the United States and around the globe. It is exciting to be a part of this endeavor and to be able to honor one of our members while helping AAUW fulfill its mission to aid women and girls to break through barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

LAF UPDATE

BY SUSAN TERZUOLI and BARBARA WELCH
LAF CO-CHAIR

We are very proud to announce that on July 30, we received a letter from the national AAUW organization congratulating our branch for its outstanding achievement in fundraising. The AAUW Danville-Alamo Branch achieved **FIRST PLACE** among the Top Ten Researchers to provide understanding of issues that are important to women and girls through **Total Branch Giving to the Eleanor Roosevelt Funds**. This is a wonderful accomplishment for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Top Ten Branch and State Fundraising awards are among AAUW's highest branch and state honors. The letter went on to say that it is only through this ongoing support and commitment of its members and donors that AAUW can continue to be a leading champion for women and girls.

Again, a very special thank you to each of you who contributed to LAF fundraisers this past year.

Action Updates

Case Conclusion: LAF-supported plaintiff Claire Schuster's pay discrimination case against Berea College (KY) has concluded in an undisclosed settlement. AAUW disbursed more than \$60,000 to Schuster over four years, and she spoke at several state conventions and at the 2007 national convention. Schuster has always been very appreciative of AAUW members' support and said that sometimes it was the only thing that helped her through the day.

Amicus Brief: AAUW signed an amicus brief for the recently decided U. S. Supreme Court case *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez*. The court had to decide whether or not the University of California Hastings College of Law could deny school funding to a religious student organization because the group bans gays and lesbians. AAUW supported the university's policy of denying funds to the group. In a 5 to 4 decision, the Supreme Court found that the law school's policy was a reasonable, viewpoint-neutral condition on access that did not raise First Amendment issues in the way that the Christian Legal Society argued.



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

HOSPITALITY

BY SHARON COHUNE
HOSPITALITY CO-CHAIR

I want to welcome Holly Sauer as my Co-Chair of Hospitality! She became a new member in the spring when she welcomed AAUW and the public to her beautiful garden for the Garden Tour.

We have been hard at work this summer creating neighborhoods from our membership's addresses, and we look forward to having those on display for everyone at the Membership Brunch. Many thanks to those of you who have stepped forward to help with hospitality as a neighborhood contact person or offered to help in other ways. We still need a few more people, so if you would like to participate on our committee, please call either Holly at 837-8302, or Sharon at 648-5153. Need more information? We'd be happy to explain what it's all about...so just give us a call or email, or come by the table at the Brunch and let's talk.

WINE GROUP

Look for news of the next wine group adventure in your e-mail. If wine lovers would like to add their names to the e-mail list or have their names removed, contact Barbara Critchlow at BACritchlow@yahoo.com.

ADVOCATE DEADLINE

The deadline for submission of articles and announcements to be published in the October newsletter is September 15. E-mail your articles, announcements, or notices to Cheryl Kohleriter at cherylkohleriter@yahoo.com and Cindy Cassady at cassady1@lml.gov.

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

AAUW ART & GARDEN INTEREST GROUP

Our first event this year is an 11:00 a.m. Walking Tour of "Theatre in San Francisco" by S.F. City Guides on Friday, September 17. On this tour we will learn about more than 150 years of theatre in San Francisco. The tour includes current theatres and those that fell or burned in the 1906 quake, prominent actors, and trends that have occurred over the years. Cost is \$10/person, non-refundable, and space is limited. We'll meet at either Sycamore Park n' Ride or the Alamo Safeway Plaza at 9:30 a.m. to carpool to Walnut Creek BART. We will lunch in the City after the tour. For further information or to sign up for the tour, contact Jacques Schubert at 855-7002 or jacqueschubert@comcast.net.

September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

To learn about symptoms and early detection read:

www.ovariancancerawareness.org
or
www.ovationsforthecure.org

TEAM MOLLY
3

WE ARE ALL ONE TEAM

fighting ovarian cancer.

*In memory of
Molly Elizabeth Large Eisenberg
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THANK YOU TO AAUW FUNDS CONTRIBUTORS

BY JACQUE SCHUBERT AND DIANNE TINNES
AAUW FUNDS/EF CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

Thanks to our most generous AAUW Funds/EF and LAF contributors:

Presidents Circle – Jo Harberson

Equity Circle – Mavis Hoffman, Chris Winter

Friend – Mary Ann B. Hruska, Martha Slavin

Chocolate Club – Charla Gabert, Lyn Griffith, Luisa Hansen, Carol Highton, Carol Kennedy, Diana Sanderson-Mori, Sharon Ritchey, Ladies Bridge.

Century Club – Karen Abu-Hamdeh, Marian Bliss, Joan Buchanan, Marjorie Christensen, Ilene Ferguson, Tena Gallagher, Lynn Goodwin, Bettejean Hill, Linda Jimerson, Verna Kershaw, Roseann Krane, Henrietta Mendelsohn, Mary Mix, Carla Pancheco, Linda Reeve, Ann Shelton, Diane Stangel.

LAF Partner – Charla Gabert

LAF Amicus – Pat DeRensis, Melinda Hall, Luisa Hansen, Carol Kennedy, Nancy Lennstrom, Cynthia Savell.

Also, Congratulations to Roseann Krane, our **California Named Gift Honoree** and Marian Bliss, Kathie Hixon, and Roseann Krane, our **Danville-Alamo Named Gift Honorees**.

2010-11 BRANCH PROGRAMS

09/25	9:30 A.M.	Membership Brunch. Crow Canyon Country Club. Keynote Speaker: Beth Greer, journalist, radio talk show host, and holistic health advocate.
10/19	3:00 P.M.	Program: <i>Women in Transition: Financial Literacy</i> , Oak Tree Wealth Management, Ora Citron. Diablo West Club House.
10/24	Noon	Educational Foundation Luncheon. Crow Canyon Country Club.
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	TBA	Branch Holiday Party. Location to be determined.
January	TBA	International Program. TBA.
January	TBA	Program. TBA.
02/22	TBA	DKG/AAUW Combined Program. Scotts Seafood Restaurant, Walnut Creek.
March	TBA	Program. TBA.
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.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR: SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

09/03	11:30 A.M.	Adventurous Chefs. Contact Phyllis Sheller at 280-0437. [WAIT LIST]
09/07 09/14 09/21 09/28	10:00 A.M.	Mah Jongg. Weekly meetings at various locations. Contact Paula Weintraub at pauladuck@yahoo.com
09/08	7:30 P.M.	Evening Bridge. Hosting: Marian Bliss at 820-4709.
09/10	9:00 A.M.	Board Meeting. Mary Mix and Marcia Steinhardt, Co-Presidents. Shadow Hills Cabana, 1001 El Capitan Drive, Danville.
09/10	7:30 P.M.	Cinema I. Inception and Eat, Pray, Love. Hosting: Sally Jess at 837-5052.
09/10	7:30 P.M.	First Friday Films. Hosting: Kathy Harkin at 736-9022. RSVP please.
09/10	7:30 P.M.	Oscar I. Movie TBA. Hosting: Sylvia Benzler at 820-0296.
09/14	11:30 A.M.	Movies n' Lunch. Eat, Pray, Love and Down Low. Faz Restaurant, 600 Hartz Ave., Danville. Contact Diane Stangel at 939-0373.
09/15	---	ADVOCATE DEADLINE. E-mail your articles to Cheryl Kohleriter and Cindy Cassady by Noon today.
Sept.	TBA	Golf. TBA. Contact Marian Bliss at 820-4709.
09/16	10:00 A.M.	Books II. The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield. Hosting: Mary Alter. Contact Doris Ringot at dring@ifn.net for information.
09/17	9:30 A.M.	Art & Garden. Walking Tour of "Theatre in San Francisco" by S.F. City Guides. See Page 5 for details.
09/18	7:30 P.M.	WC: Gourmet Group. Contact Judy Finch at 946-0249 for details. [WAIT LIST]
09/20	10:00 A.M.	Daytime Bridge. Contact Angela Domer at 838-8320.
09/22	9:30 A.M.	Contemporary Books. Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann. Hosting: Phyllis Sheller at 280-0437.
09/22	7:30 P.M.	Travel Group. Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falklands with Maureen Reschke. See her blog at http://travelswithmaureen.blogspot.com . Contact Karen Larkin at aauw.da.travgrp2@att.net for additional information.
09/23	9:30 A.M.	Daytime Literature. The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of The Oxford English Dictionary by Simon Winchester. Hosting: Barbara Critchlow at 287-1543.
09/27	9:30 A.M.	Daytime Duplicate Bridge. Contact Sandy Hoffman at 837-8759.
09/28	7:30 P.M.	Tuesday Evening Literature. Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese. Hosting: Sandy Shalon at 736-9798.

CO-PRESIDENTS

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Marcia Steinhardt

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OCTOBER BRANCH PROGRAM

WOMEN IN TRANSITION: FINANCIAL LITERACY

**Tuesday, October 19, 2010
3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

Diablo West Club House, Danville

**Guest Speaker: From Oak Tree Wealth Management
Ora Citron**

Light Refreshments Served

\$10 in Advance

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

