

THE ADVOCATE



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

Issue #8 • April, 2011

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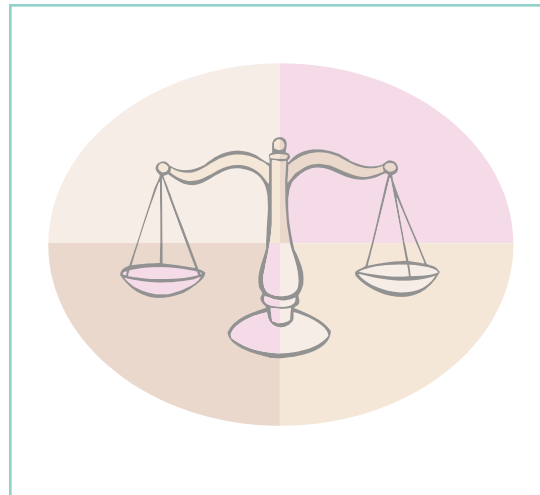
LAF PROGRAM AND SOCIAL

Saturday, April 2

4:00 P.M. - 6 P.M.

The Mercer

1655 N California Blvd, Walnut Creek



Leslie Levy brings a lifelong passion for social justice to her employment discrimination law practice. Leslie has been recognized as one of Northern California's SUPER LAWYERS, employed since 1995 to the present by *San Francisco Magazine*. She is the recipient of the Hastings College of the Law's Clara Foltz Award for distinguished service to women. She is a graduate of Hasting College of the Law, and also has a degree in philosophy from the University of California at Berkeley.

WINE & APPETIZERS WILL BE SERVED

Cost: \$10 at the door.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

BY MARY MIX and MARCIA STEINHARDT
CO-PRESIDENTS

Spring is fast approaching, and you know what that means...sunshine, a few April showers, blooming flowers, AND our annual Garden Tour. Our Garden Tour will be held this year on May 6 and 7. We encourage each of you to participate in some way. Take a shift as a docent. Bake a treat for the refreshment table. Buy a ticket for yourself and a friend and make it a special occasion.



Mary Mix
Co-President

Our "Remember the Ladies!" program and luncheon was a huge success thanks to the hard work and planning of Pat Gross and Karen Large and their committee. Special thanks go to our talented Sharon Cohune for the lovely patriotic centerpieces. With over 60 in attendance, we commemorated the 100th Anniversary of California's women receiving the vote as well as Women's History Month.

Congratulations to Jan Hersh for her winning entry, "Good Morning Hibiscus", in the AAUW Art Contest. Please check out the Art Gallery on the AAUW National website to see her gorgeous photo.

We would like to continue to give you reading recommendations, so we would encourage you to email us with your suggestions. Recently we received two recommendations:

The Gospel According to Coco Chanel by Karen Karbo and *Wild Comfort* by Kathleen Dean Moore. You might also find it worth your while to check out **BLOGHER.com**, which features women bloggers working together to change the conversation about what beauty means. They have a year-long project called **OWN YOUR BEAUTY**, which they describe in the following way:

"...We are the beautiful people. All women. Everyone of us. And that's amazing." ❖



Marcia Steinhardt
Co-President

HOMES NEEDED...For Holiday Home Tour

Holiday Home Tour: Homes Needed for our 2011 Holiday Home Tour, December 9 and December 10. If you know of any homes that would be festive for our annual HHT, please contact Tena Gallagher or Kathie Hixon at tena@aol.com or kathiehixon@comcast.net. ❖

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PUBLIC POLICY

IN THE NEWS

BY CYNTHIA SAVELL

PUBLIC POLICY

Negotiations to let the special election on tax extensions take place in June 2011 are just one of the problems worrying Governor Brown at this moment. The Budget is heavily on his mind. He is meeting with five important legislators discussing, among other pressing problems, his plan to abolish redevelopment agencies and tackle pension reform. Redevelopment agencies, in the beginning, were supposed to help fight urban blight. Once officials decided an area was blighted, a redevelopment agency could use eminent domain to raze old properties and sell bonds to pay for improvements. To pay off the bonds, the agencies could use any increase in tax revenue, and a portion of sales taxes from any new retail and commercial center would go to the city coffers, and not to the state. Local politicians grew to love the redevelopment agencies that also allowed them to reward favored developers and corporations. With time, abuses mounted and eminent domain turned over more and more private property to large developers who promised tax-generating developments. Redevelopment agencies, after creating project areas and selling bonds, began to incur more and more government debt without a public vote. Really aggressive cities began to use the agencies for more frivolous developments such as stadiums and golf courses instead of schools, fire-fighting and police services. Now, under Governor Brown's plan, the state will still have to pay off the redevelopment debt, but, shutting down the agencies will direct local funds back to general state funds and save local governments money by ending these bureaucracies.

Public sector unions all over the United States face growing political pressures not only from Republicans but also from the traditional pension allies, the Democrats. The nation's governors are grappling with the recession, declining tax revenues, and pension funds perilously close to bankruptcy. Governor Brown has benefitted politically from his close ties to the unions who have backed his elections throughout his career. Now he must make changes at a time of public unease toward government workers' benefits. Salaries, health care and pension benefits for state workers represent one of the largest and fastest growing areas of spending, accounting for an enormous amount of state dollars. And, at this rate, the state of California cannot sustain pension fund contributions. So now, the negotiations continue, and the back and forth between the five California senators and the governor and any compromises that occur, will affect us all.

Last month, the Obama administration held the first White House Conference on Bullying Prevention, aimed at drawing attention to the issue of bullying and discussing the growing need to prevent it. In addition to the conference, the President and First Lady released a joint video address and are encouraging all Americans to get involved in the anti-bullying movement through the website www.stopbullying.gov. Why is this important? In a sense, the Obamas are our role models, teaching us that bullying should not be part of our "rite of passage" through the school years where much of bullying takes place. Extreme bullying has been responsible for suicides of children as young as nine years of age. AAUW is committed to ending bullying and sexual harassment in our schools and has conducted many research projects examining the issue, including Hostile Hallways:

Bullying, Teasing, and Sexual Harassment in School.

Do you want to voice your opinion on what is and isn't working in schools across the country? White House Director of Domestic Policy Melody Barnes invites parents, teachers and students to do this. To contribute your ideas and feedback, visit http://www.whitehouse.gov/advise?utm_source=email100&utm_medium=image&utm_campaign=advise. This initiative, called Advise the Advisor, is an opportunity for the public to suggest solutions to some of America's most pressing problems with education. AAUW supports a strong system of quality education that promotes gender fairness, equity and diversity. Check the latest report on the Obama Administration, and what the White House is doing to promote quality in America's system of education. ❖

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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People &
Properties

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GARDEN TOUR 2011

A SNEAK PREVIEW

JACQUE SCHUBERT AND DIANNE TINNES
AAUW FUNDS CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

Mark your calendars for **Friday, May 6** and **Saturday, May 7** for our 11th Annual AAUW Garden Tour. Join us from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm each day to tour seven beautiful, unique, eclectic and interesting gardens.

In south Walnut Creek the “**English Garden**” was created using broken concrete walls to terrace and form separate ‘rooms’ in the English tradition. In Danville, the skilled use of ornamental grasses and low maintenance shrubs in “**Contemporary Transformation**” presents a cool, calm peaceful space. The hilltop estate in “**Unlimited Views**” is set above acres of open space, and native oaks in the back are pruned high to reveal sweeping views of Mt. Diablo and the Valley.

Our remaining four homes are in Alamo. At “**Tuscan Style**” the design lines and decorative features of this dramatic garden “speak” Italian. Our “**Grand Lady of a Certain Age**”, the former estate built by the Scripps family provides a glimpse of 1935 fine country living. A relaxed riot of color, hundreds of blooms, scores of iron obelisks supporting vines and dahlias, plus remarkable succulent specimens welcome you at “**Free Spirited Abundance**”. A formal approach greets you at “**Elegant Old World Charm**” and is expressed by the broad expanse of lawn, beautiful pool with fountains, and the long-trellised ‘wedding walk’.



Bring your friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers and enjoy your day strolling through our lovely and abundant gardens. Tickets are \$30 per person if postmarked by April 30 and \$35 thereafter. Seniors 65+ are \$25 per person if postmarked by April 30 and \$30 thereafter. Mail your check payable to “AAUW Funds” with a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to: AAUW Garden Tour, 400 Cliffside Drive, Danville, CA 94526. Tickets are also available (cash or check only) at East Bay Flower Company, 206 Sycamore Valley Road W, in the Danville Livery, during regular business hours - 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Monday to Friday and 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday, closed on Sunday. All proceeds benefit AAUW Funds which supports aspiring female scholars.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED AND WELCOMED!

Can you help staff our gardens by being a docent in one of our gardens? Can you bake finger-food ‘goodies’ and cookies or provide other refreshments? This is an “all hands on deck” for our membership! We need and appreciate support from each of you for this important fundraiser. Please contact Jacque Schubert at 855-7002, jacqueschubert@comcast.net or Dianne Tinnes at 820-8611, dtinnes@att.net and let us know that you can help.



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

BEADS2JEWELRY - April 14

ROSEANN KRANE

Please mark our calendars for the second Thursday, April 14, for our next meeting at the home of Roseann Krane. Please RSVP rkrane@yahoo.com if you can attend and to discuss supplies needed for our project which is attached. at rkrane@yahoo.com. ❖



SAVE THE DATE - May 20

CYNTHIA SAVELL

Joan Buchanan, California legislator and our Branch member, will speak to us and answer your questions about the budget and other important legislation on Friday, May 20 from 2-4 p.m., at Shadow Hills Cabana, 1001 El Capitan, Danville. There will be refreshments. More information

MOVIES n' LUNCH - April 12

Movies n' Lunch will meet on April 12 at 11:30 a.m. at Elve Restaurant, 1677 N. Main St. Movies for discussion are *The Adjustment Bureau*, *The Lincoln Lawyer* and *God and Men*. For details, contact Diane Stangel at lstangel@astound.net. ❖

FILM GROUP 5 - April 11

MARILYN MC CURDY

This newest film group (name yet to be determined) will meet on the second Monday of each month, late afternoons, to view selected films together and discuss it while dining at a local restaurant. The next meeting will be on Monday, April 11. If you are interested in joining the group or would like further information, please contact Marilyn McCurdy at marilyn.mccurdy@sbcglobal.net or Soni Leighton at soni@sbcglobal.net. ❖

ART & GARDEN - April 15

JACQUE SCHUBERT


On Friday, April 15, 2011, Art & Garden will visit **Cornerstone Gardens**, situated along the main gateway between Sonoma and Napa Valley on Highway 121. Inspired by the International Garden Festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire in France, Cornerstone Gardens opened in 2004 showcasing an ever-changing series of 20 walk-through gardens with new and innovative designs from landscape architects and designers. The first such gallery-style gardens in the United States, the nine-acre Cornerstone Gardens was created as an inspiration and resource for people interested in gardens, garden design, and art. When commissioned, these artists were given the freedom to create anything from traditional gardens to modern, conceptual installations. Each designer was provided a garden parcel of approximately 1800 square feet, a few practical considerations, and infinite opportunity. Cornerstone Gardens is included in *1001 Garden to See Before You Die* by Rae Spencer-Jones and Elizabeth Scholtz, and was named one of *Sunset Magazine's* "Top 10 Western Gardens for 2009". Admission is free and docent tours are available for groups of 10 or more. We will meet at 9:00 am to carpool to the gardens and lunch in the southern part of Sonoma after our tour. For more information, contact Jacque Schubert at 855-7002 or jacqueschubert@comcast.net.



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Tele: (707) 963-0909
Fax: (707) 963-5527

DIABLO INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER (DIRC)

TUESDAY EVENINGS

SUE DeVOE



The DIABLO INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER gives us the opportunity to continue learning and discussing after the Great Decision program by offering a lecture series on Tuesday evenings in the Spring and Fall. Come and enjoy excellent speakers on the following topics. The lecture is followed by audience question-answer and discussion with the lecturer. This Spring the topics will be:

- April 12: The Arab World in Revolt
- April 19: Public Employees & Pensions
- April 26: Who is Responsible for Health Care?
- May 3: US Foreign Trade Policy
- May 10: Food Crisis on the Horizon
- May 17: Potential Job Market in Bay Area.

The DIRC Spring Lecture Series will again be held at the Del Valle Adult Education Center Library, 1963 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek, starting at 7:30 P.M. and running to 9 P.M.

Six lectures for \$35.00 (Register for course #05-0320) and \$8.00 per lecture. For information call: 280-3980 ext. 8001. One can pay at the door. Make checks payable to DIRC. Credit cards are not accepted.

If you have any further questions and are interested in carpooling, call Sue DeVoe at 389-8774. ❖

2010-11 BRANCH PROGRAMS

04/02	4:00 P.M.	LAF Program. Keynote Speaker: Leslie Levy of the five woman law firm of Dickson Levy Vinick Burrell Hyams LLP. She will discuss issues related to LAF.
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.
05/20	2:00-4:00 P.M.	CA Budget Meeting. Speaker: Joan Buchanan, Shadow Hills Cabana, Danville. See Page 5 for details.
06/16 - 06/19	---	AAUW National Convention. Washington, DC.
06/09	TBA	Installation and Awards Presentation. Hosting: Holly Sauer

APRIL CALENDAR: SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

04/01	11:30 A.M.	Adventurous Chefs. Contact Phyllis Sheller at 280-0437. [WAIT LIST]
04/01	7:30 P.M.	First Friday Films. For details, contact Judy Halden at 735-8832.
04/05 04/12 04/19 04/26	10:00 A.M.	Mah Jongg. Weekly meetings at various locations. Contact Paula Weintraub at pauladuck@yahoo.com .
04/08	9:00 A.M.	Board Meeting. Mary Mix and Marcia Steinhardt, Co-Presidents. Shadow Hills Cabana, 1001 El Capitan Drive, Danville.
04/08	7:30 P.M.	Cinema 1. <i>Jane Eyre</i> and <i>Of Gods and Men</i> . Hosting: Tena Gallagher at 837-0826.
04/08	7:30 P.M.	Oscar 1. For details, contact Sharon Cohune at 648-5153.
04/09	---	Golf. For details, contact Marian Bliss at 820-4709.
04/11	AFTERNOON	Film Group 5. For information, contact Soni Leighton at soni@sbc-global.net or Marilyn McCurdy at marilyn.mccurdy@sbcglobal.net . See Page 5 for details.
04/12	11:30 A.M.	Movies 'n Lunch. <i>The Adjustment Bureau</i> , <i>The Lincoln Lawyer</i> and <i>God and Men</i> . Lunch at Eleve Restaurant, 1677 N.. Main St., Walnut Creek. See Page 5.
04/13	7:30 P.M.	Evening Bridge. For details, contact Barbara Nexson at 837-9625.
04/14	1:00 P.M.	Beads2Jewelry. Hosting: Roseann Krane at rkrane@yahoo.com . Please RSVP.
04/15	9:00 A.M.	Art & Garden. Cornerstone Gardens. See Page 5 for details or contact Jacque Schubert at 855-7002.
04/15	---	ADVOCATE DEADLINE. E-mail your articles to Cheryl Kohleriter and Cindy Cassady by Noon today.
04/16	8:30 A.M.	Hiking Group. Little Yosemite Falls hike in Sunol. Meet at Danville Park & Ride. Contact Kathie Hixon at kathiehixon@comcast.net for details.
04/16	10:30 A.M.	Epicureans. Contact Judy Finch at 946-0249. [WAIT LIST]
04/18	9:30 A.M.	Daytime Party Bridge. Hosting: Anne Long at 831-8649.
04/21	10:30 A.M.	Books II. <i>Baking Cakes in Kigali</i> by Gaile Parkin. Contact Doris Ringot at 934-8199 for location.
04/25	9:30 A.M.	Daytime Duplicate Bridge. For details, contact Sandy Hoffman at 837-8759.
04/26	7:30 P.M.	Evening Literature. <i>Shanghai Girls</i> by Lisa See. Hosting: Jennifer Brandenburg at 838-4336.
04/27	7:30 P.M.	Contemporary Books. Contact Diane Stangel at 939-0373 or lstangel@astound.net .
04/28	9:30 A.M.	Daytime Literature. <i>The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo</i> by Stieg Larson. Hosting: Pat Madsen.

CO-PRESIDENTS

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Marcia Steinhardt

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APRIL PROGRAM

LAF PROGRAM & SOCIAL

Saturday, April 2

4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

THE MERCER
1655 N. CALIFORNIA BLVD.
WALNUT CREEK
\$10 at the door

See Page 1 for details.

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