

# THE ADVOCATE



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

Issue #10 • June, 2011

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List of this year's branch  
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## 2011-12 EXECUTIVE BOARD INSTALLATION

THURSDAY, JUNE 9  
5:30 P.M.

BRANCH RECOGNITION

RSVP BY JUNE 5

Congratulations!

LOCAL  
SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS

AAUW  
HONORARY LIFE  
MEMBERSHIP AWARD

GARDEN OF HOLLY AND LEN SAUER  
181 Emmons Canyon Lane  
Alamo

RSVP by June 5 to  
Arlene at [arbar@astound.net](mailto:arbar@astound.net), or 947-6122

\*Please bring an appetizer or a small dessert, ready to serve.  
Wine, lemonade and coffee will be provided.

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

BY MARY MIX and MARCIA STEINHARDT  
CO-PRESIDENTS



Mary Mix  
Co-President



Marcia Steinhardt  
Co-President

We've had the distinct pleasure of working with all of you **LOVELY LADIES** this year, and it has truly been an honor. Our accomplishments are many, and you all deserve a big pat on the back for pulling it all together. It truly does take a Village.

1. In the fall we naively embarked upon a Branch Name Change. Gosh, what a can of worms, but so worth it! We are officially Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek. Yes it's a mouthful, but we all stand together as one AAUW community, working together towards the same goals.
2. We have successfully launched and implemented our Neighborhood Groups, which have been overwhelmingly popular.
3. Holiday Home Tour (HHT) with record ticket sales of 770, yielding \$22,000.00.
4. We addressed positions on our board and made changes to include voting rights for HHT Co-Chairs, Garden Tour Co-Chairs and Hospitality Co-Chairs. We also added the AAUW Funds VP position.
5. "Remember the Ladies" Program was honored at the AAUW CA convention as an excellent example of a Branch Mission Based Program. We received a free registration for Convention 2012.
6. Membership highs exceeded our wildest dreams: 275 + (and still climbing!)
7. The Expanding Your Horizons event was exceptional, as always, and our hope is to continue supplying volunteers for next year's event with the determination to include more attendance from our communities.
8. Fourteen middle school girls from our community will be attending Tech Trek this summer.
9. Thirteen young women from our community are receiving scholarships to continue their education.
10. We enjoyed one of the most informative Legal Advocacy Fund Programs presented by high-powered attorney Leslie Levy.
11. We enjoyed a Membership Tea that was so well attended we were forced to limit attendance to "New" members only.
12. Our recent Garden Tour sold 981 tickets, 30% higher than last year's, netting a record \$27,500.00!
13. Our By-laws and Policies and Procedures were scrutinized and changed endlessly to meet the needs of our ever-growing branch.

You did this, WOW!!! Give yourselves a big round of applause! ❖

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## PUBLIC POLICY

### IN THE NEWS

BY CYNTHIA SAVELL

### PUBLIC POLICY

House Republicans, with the help of sixteen Democrats, passed a bill recently. They angrily called it, “No taxpayer funding for Abortion Act.” It’s a slightly modified version of the bill, HR 3, proposed by Chris Smith, R NJ, but far more sweeping. The Hyde Amendment has long barred federal financing of abortion, and the rules for segregating premium payments from government subsidies is enough to discourage insurers from offering coverage in the market place. A tax provision would deny tax credits to small companies offering private health plans that cover abortion services. Approximately 89% of private plans do this now. This bill doesn’t go after large corporations. The measure also eliminates medical expense deductions for most abortions and ends the possibility of reimbursement for abortion costs from medical savings accounts, changes that could lead to IRS auditors trying to confirm whether the abortion resulted from rape, incest or if the woman’s life was endangered. Besides insurance, the bill would also eliminate the yearly renewal of the Hyde Amendment’s denial of abortion services to poor women and others who rely on the federal government for their health care. Of course, the Administration has cautioned that it would veto the bill, and its authors should not try to sneak it into the debt limit talks!

AAUW National has signaled that it is going all out to support the Paycheck Fairness Act, S797, which the Senate has recently reintroduced. In the May Advocate public policy article, AAUW’s pamphlet, “The Simple Truth about the Pay Gap,” explains briefly but carefully how the pay gap affects not only women and their families but the strength of our economy. In conversation among family and friends, please discuss the information it contains and call your senators’ offices and request that Senators Feinstein and Boxer co-sponsor S797. You can follow the progress of this bill as it navigates through the senate process on the Library of Congress site: Thomas.LOC.gov, or check bill progress by again calling the senators’ offices. Please let your senators know how important this bill is to American women.

As Governor Brown considers a “cuts only” budget, with no extension of the taxes currently set to sunset soon, a very real threat to CA K – 12 education funds exists. Recently, Rep. Duncan Hunter, R CA, introduced the first bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, aka No Child Left Behind. This bill, HR 1891, would eliminate 43 education programs within K – 12, such as the Women’s Educational Equity Program, which serves women and girls, Striving Readers, the Start Family Literacy Program, and the National Writing Project. This bill is the first in a series of measures the House will consider to reauthorize ESEA (No Child Left Behind). AAUW is extremely concerned about the impact of this bill on American students. After all, strong academic principles and closing the achievement gap for all children are ESEA objectives. A foundation of strong early childhood reading and writing helps improve and sustain achievement in all areas of life in later years and saves precious taxpayer dollars along the way.

President Obama wants to save Pell grants, as he indicated in a recent speech to a university audience. He will oppose Republican budget plans to reduce Pell grants, which are now widely available to students. AAUW is committed to a strong system advocating for support and access to higher education for all students.

Did you know that the tax rate for the richest Americans has declined? Debate in Congress continues over cutting spending rather than increasing revenue. The president wants to allow existing tax breaks for the wealthy to expire, bringing in at least one trillion dollars over the next 12 years. Americans in the highest income bracket have paid fewer taxes over time. The average federal income tax rate for the highest gross incomes in the U.S .has declined from 26% in 1992 down to 17% today, according to the Tax Policy Center. ♦

#### 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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## GWEN REGALIA

CAROLINE SANCHEZ

### WOMEN'S HISTORY CHAIR

Gwen Regalia, veteran Walnut Creek Mayor and City Council member, was born 77 years ago in Marin County, then lived in San Francisco in the early 1940s during the war years where her father worked as an electrician for the shipyards. In 1944, her family moved to Santa Rosa where Gwen graduated from high school and from Santa Rosa Junior College in 1952. She went on to earn a life credential in elementary education from UC Berkeley in 1955. While in Berkeley Gwen met and married Ed Regalia who was in law school. His Walnut Creek law firm, Miller Starr Regalia specializes in real property law.

In 1958 they moved to Walnut Creek and had three sons Doug, Ken and Phil in three years and two months; Connie was born four years later. Gwen joined and was active in AAUW in Walnut Creek beginning in 1959. While the children were small, she was involved in their school and did tutoring there.

In the 1960s, the women's movement became very active with Gloria Steinman and other activists leading the way. AAUW and the League of Women's Voters were in the midst of it. In 1962 Gwen was involved in both non-partisan and Democratic politics. In 1968, Gwen chaired the Contra Costa election of Alan Cranston for U.S. Senate, which he won. She said that became a full time job. In 1970, she was Chairman for the Central Contra Costa Democratic Women's Group. Diane Feinstein was San Francisco Chairman at that time.

In 1971 when Gwen met with Peg Kovar who was founding president of Save Mt. Diablo and active in the League of Women Voters, she convinced her to run for Walnut Creek City Council. With Peg and Gwen both having four-year-old children at home, Gwen became chairman of her campaign. It was a grass roots campaign and they attended evening meetings plus 75 neighborhood coffees at private homes. Peg became a council member from 1972 to 1985 and was the first woman Mayor of Walnut Creek. She left in 1985 when her husband was transferred to Washington DC; they returned when his contract was up.

In 1973 Gwen's family moved to a new home in South Walnut Creek with children in three schools. She realized that Walnut Creek was divided into five school districts, so she became involved trying to unify the city into one school district. In 1975 she became Chairman of Citizens Committee for Single Walnut Creek School District. The County and State School Boards of Education continued to turn it down as it would set a precedent for the state. The State Supreme Court would not take the case, so after many hours of work, in 1978 Gwen became a member of the Walnut Creek Board of Education until 1987.

With all her experience Gwen was elected for Walnut Creek City Council in November, 1987. She was re-elected in 1991, 1996, 2000 and 2004. She was Mayor in 1991, 1996, 1999, 2003 and 2008. While on the council, she served as President of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) from 2002 to 2004. Gwen served on the WC City Council five terms until 2008. She says that the two bookends of her career were to vote for building the Regional Center for the Arts and the new Walnut Creek Library. She was involved in approving many parks, two gymnasiums, seven ball fields, the Iron Horse Bridge and 305 acres of open space plus many other city activities.

In 1969, her husband Ed founded the Kennedy-King Memorial College Scholarship Fund that provides scholarships for minority students with good potential and financial need. It was started the year Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King were assassinated. Gwen has been past president of the Fund, and to date, the Fund has provided 593 scholarships with a total of \$2,842,000.

There have been and continues to be many other organizations that Gwen has been involved in, too numerous to mention. She and Ed have eight grandchildren aged 27 to almost 3 years of age. Gwen has been a member of AAUW for over 50 years, and we are so proud of having a woman of her caliber in our organization. ❖



### 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](http://www.danvilleband.org), or [www.instantencore.com](http://www.instantencore.com).

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR IN-COMING PRESIDENTS

Hello AAUW Members,

We would like to thank everyone for putting your faith in us to lead this very distinguished group of women. We hope to live up to your expectations. We have some big shoes to fill after Mary and Marcia, who were great examples of what leaders should be and we thank them for their efforts.

What a successful year we had with our fundraising! Both fundraisers exceeded the previous year. Our fundraisers keep growing and we keep learning. It shows through the number of tickets we sell to the Holiday Home Tour and Garden Tour. Please remember how many young women we are able to help with these increased funds and please say "Yes," when a head docent calls you.


Your Leadership Team is meeting on June 25 to begin our preparations for the coming year, and you are welcome to join us by sending an RSVP to [rkrane@yahoo.com](mailto:rkrane@yahoo.com). We will be planning programs, so there will be some wonderful events in which to participate. Every year a lot of thought goes into finding speakers and topics that are timely and interesting to our members. You will derive satisfaction and value for the dues you paid by attending our events.

Hospitality will once again plan those wonderful coffees to meet other AAUW members in your neighborhood. Don't forget our wide array of interest groups. There is something for everyone, so join several.

Do have a nice summer and mark your calendar for the September 10 brunch. We look forward to serving the membership and to a great year. We are always available to you - feel free to contact us.

Our best to all of you,

Robin Halloran and Roseann Krane  
Co-Presidents ❖



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## WC READS

### Mystery Novel Selected for 2011 Walnut Creek Reads

This year's One City, One Book selection – *The Mapping of Love and Death* by Jacqueline Winspear – has something for every reader. And AAUW members are invited to read the book this summer and then participate in various citywide celebratory events in September and October. The local AAUW branch is a co-sponsor of the Walnut Creek Reads program.

The seventh in Winspear's *New York Times* bestselling Maisie Dobbs mystery series, *The Mapping of Love and Death* takes place in 1932 London and finds psychologist and investigator Maisie Dobbs embroiled in two investigations: The mysterious WWI battlefield death of an American cartographer who was the son of an English expatriate, and the search for the young nurse who was the cartographer's friend and confidant. The Maisie Dobbs character appeals to those who love British mysteries and historical novels.

Highlighting the fall events will be "An Evening with the Author," a special visit and presentation by Winspear on Monday September 12 at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Other community events planned for the fall include a lecture on wartime cartography, a travel program on Maisie Dobbs's London, a special "Night at the Pub," and program for youth mystery buffs, and three community book discussions. A complete list of community events is on the Walnut Creek Reads website, [www.WalnutCreekReads.org](http://www.WalnutCreekReads.org), and is available at the public libraries, Rossmoor library, or local bookstores. A discussion guide is also available online or at the libraries.

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## 2011 GARDEN TOUR AGAIN OVER THE TOP!!

**DIANNE TINNES AND JACQUE SCHUBERT**  
**AAUW FUNDS CO-CHAIRS**

This year's Garden Tour has again broken all previous records both in monies collected and number of people attending. An amazing 981 garden admirers purchased tickets, and AAUW funds will be able to provide over \$27,500 towards our mission of supporting aspiring female scholars worldwide through fellowships and grants. The gardens were brimming with color and the weather was just about perfect.

We appreciate our homeowners' willingness to allow so many to enjoy their beautiful gardens and for giving generously of their time and effort to have their gardens looking perfect for us: Verna & Julian Kershaw, Shelley & Bill Lettis, Bonnie & Greg Randall, Linda & Tom Reiser, Sue Schwerin, Cynthia & Richard Teplin, and Gayle & George Walker. We also thank Landscape Architect Marty Hoffman and Joe Huettl and Landscape Designer Peter Koenig who were in their gardens answering questions throughout the Tour.

Our Head Docents were superb and deserve a "round of applause" for managing their gardens and docents without a hitch. Marilyn Bressler, Sharon Cohune, Pat DeRensis, Kathie Hixon, Pat Madsen, Mary Ann Osborne, and Holly Sauer. Our Refreshment Head Docents JoAnne Dahlin and Gus Slavin did a great job of managing the refreshments this year. Thanks to all of you who donated goodies! We also had enormous help from Dora-Thea Porter in designing our flyers, postcards, tickets and Tri-Fold membership board. Robin Halloran provided hand-calligraphed name tags for our garden owners and designers and Mary Mix printed our docent name tags. Publicity this year was 'out of this world' thanks to Tena Gallagher, who also took care of ticket sales. Barbara Welch found our wonderful restaurant sponsors and Ingrid Lara and Robin Halloran provided fresh flower arrangements at two of the gardens. Marian Bliss was again our official Photographer, Karen Schlumpp handled Membership, and Connie Cady handled sign placement. A special thanks to East Bay Flower Company for allowing us to use their store for ticket sales from April 1 through the Tour.

We also enthusiastically thank our Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch members (and others) for being such enthusiastic docents -- our gardens were well taken care of. Carole Allen, Loretta Altshuler, Asha Bajaj, Arlene Barnett, Susan Bernhoft, Roberta Black, Mary Ellen Blake, Tracy Bowlby, Jennifer Brandenburg, Dee Brook, Sharon Burke, Cindy Cassady, Ruth Chickering, Jeanne Chiodo, Gail Clark, Bobbi Clyde, Joan Conley, Barbara Critchlow, Carmen Curtis, Brenda Davis, Lynn Dodge, Angela Domer, Fari Falaki, Ilene Ferguson, Judy Finch, Pat Foster, Charla Gabert, Tena Gallagher, Lynn Goodwin, Mary Granzotto, Lyn Griffith, Pat Gross, Mary Hanson, Jo Harberson, Dot Healy, Jan Hersh, Sandy Hoffman, Sally Jess, Mary Kelly, Carol Kennedy, Jan Knadle, Mimi Knox, Jennifer Krommenhoek, Karen Large, Karen Larkin, Soni Leighton, Harlene L'Engle, Loretta Lewis, Joyce Logan, Anne Long, Melinda Love, Jeannine Makely, Marina Mann, Donna McCartney, Michele McInaney, Marilyn McCurdy, Kathleen McNight, Marilyn Milam, Laurie Miller, Mary Mix, Susan Moore, Nancy Murray, Bev Nidick, Fred Osborne, Helen Pearlstein, Dora-Thea Porter, Larry Porter, Nancy Powers, Marsha Riley, Caroline Sanchez, Cynthia Savell, Karen Schlumpp, Jane Shah, Mitra Shakerin, Marjorie Singler, Gail Smith, Marcia Steinhardt, Cathy Taughinbaugh, Charlene Vorous, Melanie Wade, Melissa Walsh, Gerry Washalaski, Chris Wertz, Sherry Wilcoxson, Carolyn Winton, Deborah Wechsler, Elizabeth Williams, and Marian Worrall. The following spouses' also helped out in various ways: John Gallagher, Julian Kershaw, Bruce Hixon, and Tim Tinnes.

Our wonderful Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch has done it again! ❖

### 2010-11 BRANCH PROGRAMS

06/16 - 06/19	---	<b>AAUW National Convention.</b> Washington, DC.
06/09	5:30 P.M.	<b>Installation and Awards Presentation.</b> Hosting: Holly Sauer. RSVP to Arlene Barnett at <a href="mailto:arbar@astound.net">arbar@astound.net</a> .

## JUNE CALENDAR: SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

06/03	11:30 A.M.	<b>Adventurous Chefs.</b> Contact Phyllis Sheller at 280-0437. [WAIT LIST]
06/03	7:30 P.M.	<b>First Friday Films.</b> For details, contact Judy Halden at 735-8832.
06/05	NOON	<b>Wine Tasters.</b> Cline, Jacuzzi and Viansa Winery visits. Contact Barbara Critchlow at bacritchlow@yahoo.com for details.
06/07 06/14 06/21 06/28	10:00 A.M.	<b>Mah Jongg.</b> Weekly meetings at various locations. Contact Paula Weintraub at pauladuck@yahoo.com.
06/08	7:30 P.M.	<b>Evening Bridge.</b> Hosting: Billye Chilcott at 820-0621.
06/09	5:30 P.M.	<b>Installation and Awards Presentation.</b> Hosting: Holly Sauer. RSVP to Arlene Barnet at arbar@astound.net.
06/10	7:30 P.M.	<b>Cinema I.</b> <i>The Conspirator</i> and <i>Water for Elephants</i> . Hosting: Jan Knadle at 648-1445.
06/10	7:30 P.M.	<b>Oscar I.</b> For details, contact Sharon Cohune at 648-5153.
06/11	---	<b>Golf.</b> For details, contact Marian Bliss at 820-4709.
06/13	4:00 P.M.	<b>Monday Movie Mates.</b> Film and dinner. For details, contact Marilyn McCurdy at 831-8617.
06/14	11:30 A.M.	<b>Movies 'n Lunch.</b> <i>Incendies</i> and <i>Midnight in Paris</i> . Lunch at The Prickley Pear in Blackhawk, 3421 Blackhawk Plaza Dr., Danville. Contact: Diane Stangel at lstangel@astound.net.
06/16	NOON	<b>Beads2Jewelry.</b> Hosting: Roseann Krane. Please RSVP Gail Clark at gpc627@aol.com to be sent list of project supplies required.
06/16	10:30 A.M.	<b>Books II.</b> Contact Doris Ringot at 934-8199 for location.
06/18	10:30 A.M.	<b>Epicureans.</b> Contact Judy Finch at 946-0249. [WAIT LIST]
06/20	9:30 A.M.	<b>Daytime Party Bridge.</b> Contact: Angela Domer at 838-8320.
6/22	1:00 P.M.	<b>Photo Group.</b> Hosting: Marian Bliss at 820-4709 or mbliss@sbcglobal.net.
06/23	9:30 A.M.	<b>Daytime Literature.</b> <i>Pearl Buck in China: Journey to the Good Earth</i> by Hilary Spurling. Hosting: Marianne Gagen at 837-3603.
06/25	8:30 A.M.	<b>Hiking Group.</b> Coyote Hills Regional Park led by Cindy Cassady. Meet at Sycamore Park 'n Ride. Contact Cindy Cassady at cassady1@lnl.gov.
06/25	10:00 A.M.	<b>Board Planning Meeting.</b> Soup and salad session. Bring something to add to our salad.. RSVP Roseann Krane at rkrane@yahoo.com.
06/27	9:30 A.M.	<b>Daytime Duplicate Bridge.</b> For details, contact Sandy Hoffman at 837-8759.
06/28	7:30 P.M.	<b>Evening Literature.</b> <i>The Help</i> by Kathryn Stockett. Hosting: Alicia Jones at 838-0254..
06/29	7:30 P.M.	<b>Contemporary Books.</b> Contact Diane Stangel at 939-0373 or lstangel@astound.net.
08/08	9:30 A.M.	<b>Board Meeting.</b> Watch for details during the summer.

### CO-PRESIDENTS

Mary Mix  
Marcia Steinhardt

### PROGRAM CO-VPs

Pat Gross  
Karen Large

### MEMBERSHIP VP

Karen Schlump

### AAUW FUNDS CO-VPs

Jacque Schubert  
Dianne Tinnes

### LAF CO-VPs

Susan Terzuoli  
Barbara Welch

### SECRETARY

Loretta Altshuler

### TREASURER

Mary Hanson

### PARLIAMENTARIAN

Marian Bliss

#### ADVOCATE STAFF:

Cindy Cassady Cheryl Kohleriter

#### WEBMASTERS:

Roseann Krane Dora-Thea Porter



P. O. BOX 996  
ALAMO, CA 94507

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## SAVE THE DATE

**August 8: First Board Meeting**

**September 10: Membership Brunch**

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