

BAY LEAVES



AAUW/San Mateo

December 2014, Vol. 85, Issue 3

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Gayle Hardt & Margo King

The holiday season is upon us, and we hope many of you will plan to join us in celebrating the season.

We will be gathering in the home of Board member and Financial Officer Judy Steele, who has offered to host us so that we will have an intimate setting in which to mingle, enjoy light hors d'oeuvres, and catch up with each other's lives as well as our AAUW activities.

And in the spirit of giving that is an important part of the season, we also invite members to bring a gift card in any denomination and for any business of your choice. If you bring a card, please also note the amount of it either on an envelope or on the card itself. This allows the people who receive the cards to know the value of the gift.

These gift cards will be given to InnVision Shelter Network, an organization that supports families in our area. The holiday season can be a time when many are unable to do the extra things they would so much like to do for their families.

Please do try to join us. Fellowship is one of the gifts we receive through AAUW, and this is a wonderful time of the year to appreciate and enjoy each other! HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

UPCOMING BRANCH EVENTS

- Dec. 13 - Holiday Party
- Jan. 10 - Art Lecture by Kay Payne,
Fine Arts Museums of SF Docent
- Feb. 21 - Lunch at Delancey Street, SF
- Apr. 20 - Spring Fundraising Luncheon

Kay Payne Lecture Will Feature Remarkable California Women

"California Treasures: Women Who Make a Difference" will be the subject of our annual Kay Payne lecture on Saturday, January 10th at 1 p.m.

Kay has designed a provocative slide show and lecture which includes paintings, sculpture and photography and celebrates the lives of a wide variety of women from all walks of life who have made major contributions to our state.

This first program of the coming year will be held at the College of San Mateo District Board Room, 3401 CSM Drive, San Mateo. It will be free and open to all AAUW members, family and friends. Kay's presentations are always very popular, and we look forward to hearing what she has to offer us in 2015.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Date: Saturday, December 13

Time: 1-4 p.m.

Place: Home of Judy Steele

We will be serving appetizers and beverages. Everyone is invited, including spouses and friends.

Optional Donation: Gift Card (your choice of amount and business) to be given to InnVision Shelter Network for distribution to the families they assist.

MEMBERSHIP TREASURER

Carol Way

Membership as of 11/01/2014: 163

Address Changes and Corrections:

Betty Bernstein

Jane Bradley

Beverly Gaines

Jeanne Johnson

Jill Stewart:

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Stephen Buchner

A Kansas native, Steve is a recently retired San Mateo pediatrician. He attended the University of Kansas for college and medical school, and came to Los Angeles for internship and residency in pediatrics. After serving 2 years in the Navy at Camp Pendleton, he joined the San Mateo Medical Clinic (currently the site of the Peninsula Regent). His interests are in theater, live music performances and travel. AAUW's mission furthers his commitment to family and children's health.

Mary Anne McGuire-Hickey

Mary Anne was born in Portland Oregon, and completed the nursing diploma program at Providence School of Nursing in her hometown. She later obtained a BS in nursing at Seattle University and an MS in nursing administration from UCSF. She has been a resident of the Bay Area since 1966 and recently retired as the nursing director from the San Francisco Department of Health. She is a CERT (Community Emergency Rescue Team) member and serves on the Brisbane CERT advisory committee. She is also a member of Fraternal Order of Eagles and secretary for Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Columbia Division 2. In AAUW, she is interested in educational opportunities for women and branch activities involving EF, Programs and Scholarship.

TECH TREK

Maureen Buchner

Thanks to those of you who have responded to the pink postcards with your donation checks. If you would like to give before 12/31, please send checks made out to AAUW CA SPF to Maureen Buchner. There was a great article in the November 12, 2014, issue of US News and World Report favorable to our Tech Trek Program!

THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Members of the new Hospitality Committee have been out in force at our branch events beginning with the Tech Trek brunch in October. Not only have they been cooking and cleaning up, they have also been greeting members as they arrived at each event. The chairperson is Susan Cioni, and her committee members are Maureen Buchner, Mikki Coffino, Sue Gill, Fran Gillen, Anne Grauzlis and Kathy Wiblin. THANK YOU ALL!

Delancey Street Luncheon in February Brought Back by Popular Demand

Get out your 2015 calendars and enter Saturday, February 21, if you would like to attend our special AAUW luncheon at Delancey Street in San Francisco.

Back in 2008 our branch members enjoyed a terrific meal at this remarkable restaurant which is wholly staffed by men and women who are in the process of turning their lives around after experiencing periods of incarceration. By popular demand we have scheduled a second visit for 40 to this amazing restaurant at 600 The Embarcadero in San Francisco.

Reservation forms for \$30 a person for a first-class four course luncheon will be included in our January Bay Leaves. Valet parking will be available for \$4.00 in front of the restaurant which is located at the corner of Brannan and The Embarcadero.

5 Issues to Watch in the Supreme Court This Year

By AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Manager Mollie Lam

It's obvious, but it's easy to forget: [Courts matter](#). Federal courts determine the scope of workers' rights and the constitutionality of civil rights laws. The U.S. Supreme Court is the final stop when it comes to many of the most important legal challenges our country faces. Here's a summary of what to expect as the Supreme Court's term gets underway.

1. Fallout from *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*

In this past summer's disappointing *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* decision, the Supreme Court ruled that closely held corporations can't be required to cover contraception through their employee health insurance plans. Despite Justice Alito's assurance that the *Hobby Lobby* ruling would have limited reach, fallout from the decision could seriously threaten many more employees' access to preventative health care. The first *Hobby Lobby* fallout on the horizon concerns religiously affiliated nonprofits.

2. Restricting Choice: TRAP Laws

In the last few years, a number of states across the country have passed so-called TRAP laws in an attempt to restrict and even eliminate women's access to legal abortion. TRAP stands for Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers. While many anti-choice laws impose restrictions on patients, TRAP laws are designed to prevent doctors from performing abortions altogether. TRAP laws are passed under the guise of protecting women's health, even though the provisions generally do nothing to increase the standard of care — the laws only make it more difficult for women to find good reproductive health care.

3. Pregnancy Discrimination: *Young v. UPS*

Peggy Young, a UPS driver, requested temporary light-duty work because of medical complications during her pregnancy. UPS refused to provide light-duty work, even though it allowed several other categories of workers to be assigned such work when they were temporarily disabled. Because UPS refused to accommodate her restriction, Young was forced to leave her job, losing her income and health care coverage at a critical time. Young eventually sued UPS under the Pregnancy Discrimination Act. Unfortunately, both the federal district court and the Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit sided with UPS. If the Supreme Court sides with UPS, it could leave pregnant workers vulnerable to discrimination in the workplace.

4. Voting Rights at Risk

Voters in nearly half the country in our recent election were expected to face new voting restrictions at the polls — restrictions that weren't there during the last midterm election four years ago. These voting restrictions hurt women, minorities, young voters, and the elderly the most. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was supposed to stop states from passing these kinds of voting restrictions. But the court's 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* weakened the law, gutting the spirit but leaving the name.

5. Marriage Equality Surging

In the best news of the new term, marriage equality is increasing across the country as one same-sex marriage ban after another is struck down. All but one federal judge to consider the question have ruled that same-sex marriage bans are unconstitutional. Several states whose bans had been rejected by lower courts asked the Supreme Court to review their cases. So far, the court has declined to hear any of the cases, making marriage equality a reality in many states. In a year with so many high-stake cases, it's exciting to tally the marriage equality victories we've won so far. But much is left to be decided, and the court's term is far from over.

Stay tuned to AAUW's e-newsletter [LAF Express](#). Email laf@aauw.org to subscribe!

10 States Doing Excellent Work on Ballot Initiatives

AAUW-Supported Ballot Initiatives Win in Several States

On Election Day, AAUW's and friends' voices were heard loud and clear on [ballot initiatives](#), thanks in large part to the hard work of AAUW members and leaders in these states. All of the AAUW-supported minimum wage referendums [on the ballot](#) passed by significant margins in Alaska, Arkansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota, plus a non-binding measure passed in Illinois. Voters [defeated](#) personhood amendments in Colorado and North Dakota, but unfortunately a Tennessee ballot initiative was approved that will give state lawmakers more power to restrict and regulate abortion. Oregon passed a state version of the Equal Rights Amendment, and voters in Massachusetts, Oakland (CA), and Montclair and Trenton (NJ) passed ballot initiatives guaranteeing [paid sick days](#) to more workers. These results will positively affect women and families nationwide, we hope they encourage branches to expand state and municipal advocacy efforts.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

On November 1, the North Peninsula Branch invited our Representative, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, to speak to members of AAUW about issues that we support. It was a very interesting discussion including her push to remove the deadline on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) of the U.S. Constitution. If the deadline is removed, only 3 more states need to ratify it for it to become a constitutional amendment. Another issue she brought forward is the large numbers of sexual assault and rape in the military and on college campuses that are not being investigated properly. A third is the wealth inequality in the United States. She suggested ways that this could be addressed including: raising the minimum wage; paid sick leave and family and medical leaves; and quality, affordable day care for working parents.

In order for the San Mateo Branch to be more involved in our mission of advocating for women and girls, we would like to form an Advocacy Committee. This committee would consist of a chairperson and two or three other members who would look into the issues presented by AAUW CA and AAUW National as well as our Representatives to determine if there is any action our branch can take. These actions might be sending letters to our state Senator and Assemblyman and our Congressional Representative and Senators; following AAUW CA and National "two-minute activist" suggestions and bringing them to the membership among other activities. If you're interested in advocacy, this could be a good opportunity for you to become involved. It would not involve a lot of time, and the committee could set its own agenda. If you would like to be part of the Advocacy Committee, please email Gayle Hardt or Margo King.

Many members who attended the Tech Trek Brunch have requested this recipe. Thanks to Susan Cioni for sharing it with us.

Black-Eyed Pea Salad (10 servings)

2 C. dried black-eyed peas, rinsed and picked over

2 T. celery salt

1/2 C. olive oil

1/2 C. balsamic vinegar

1 T. plus 1 t. stone-ground mustard

1/2 C. small-dice red onion

1/2 C. medium-dice red pepper

1 C. medium-dice celery

1/2 C. finely chopped fresh Italian parsley

2 T. kosher salt

1 t. freshly ground black pepper

Combine peas and celery salt in medium pot. Add water to cover by 2 inches and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until peas are soft but not mushy, 30 minutes to 1.5 hours. Drain and cool.

In a large bowl, whisk together oil, vinegar and mustard. Stir in the onion, red pepper, celery, parsley, salt and pepper. Add the drained peas and toss to combine. Taste and adjust seasonings if necessary.

DECEMBER 2014 INTEREST SECTIONS
INTEREST SECTIONS CHAIR - Elissa James

Arts & Culture

Marge Denni
Marjorie Kobe
NO MEETING IN DECEMBER.

Book Discussion I

Elissa James
Thursday, December 18, 10:00 AM Pot Luck
Maureen Buchner
My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor

Book Discussion II

Mary Stella Flynn Thursday, December 4,
12:00 Noon – 2 PM
Karlyn Schneider *San Miguel* by T. C. Boyle

Book Discussion III

Sherrean Rundberg
NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Book Discussion IV

Mikki Coffino
DATE CHANGE: Friday, December 19, 10 AM
Pot Luck Lunch
Elissa James
Three Day Road by Joseph Boyden

Bridge

Elissa James
Monday, December 15, 12:00 Noon
Pot Luck Lunch
Elissa James

California Fact & Legend

Helen Hatchett
NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Dining Out

Jane Bradley
Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 PM
Chantilly, Redwood City – carpools available
Host: Joan Fitzgerald

Drama Reading

Marjorie Kobe
Wednesday, December 3, 9:00 AM
Mary Faber

Ethnic Dining

Mary Faber
Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 PM
Contact Mary for details

Ethnic Lunch

A Delaney
DATE CHANGE: Friday, December 5, 11:30 AM
Puerto 27 (Peruvian), 525 Crespi Drive, Pacifica
RSVP to Annette by 12/03

Foreign Affairs – Great Decisions

Carol Way
NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Hiking Always 10 AM year-round

Bobbi Benson
Sat. December 6, Hike and Annual Picnic
To join us anytime, contact Bobbi.

Mah Jongg

Helen Hatchett
Thursday, December 11, 1:30 PM
Tuesday, December 23, 1:30 PM
For more info, contact Helen.

Membership: New and Prospective

Maureen Buchner
DATE AND TIME CHANGE:
Wednesday, December 10, 1:30 PM - Coffee
Please RSVP to Maureen.

Mystery Book Group

Mikki Coffino,
Friday, December 12, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Still Life by Louise Penny
Mikki Coffino

Public Policy/Current Events

Betty Bernstein
Diane Silven Tuesday, December 9, 10:30 AM -12 Noon
LaTrice Taylor, Associate Director of Housing, Samaritan House, speaking on "What Everyone Should Know about Samaritan House"
Gerhild Klein

American Association of University Women
P.O. Box 1465
San Mateo, CA 94401-0816

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.
By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

DECEMBER 2014 CALENDAR

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1	2	3 Drama	4 Board Meeting Book II	5 Ethnic Lunch	6 Hiking w/Annual Picnic
	8	9 Public Policy	10 Membership Dining Out Ethnic Dining	11 Mah Jongg	12 Mystery Books	13 Holiday Party
14	15 Bridge	16	17	18 Book I	19 Book IV	20
21	22	23 Mah Jongg	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

