

BAY LEAVES



AAUW/San Mateo

February 2015, Vol. 85, Issue 5

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Gayle Hardt & Margo King

February is a month of traditions remembered and celebrated.

- President's Day recognizes a great government by honoring the nation's first president and his successors.
- Black History Month recognizes a people because, to quote historian Carter Woodson, "if a group has no history, or has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world."
- Valentine's Day acknowledges a long and complicated tradition of caring, from St. Valentine of Rome through the beginning of romantic love celebrated in Chaucer's Middle Ages, to the candy and flowers and thoughts of loved ones in our own time.

AAUW, too, has a long history of caring through member support of policies and practices that empower women and girls. Our activities are continuing the worthwhile tradition of making the role of women even more important in the thought of the world.

Candy and flowers are nice, too. Enjoy Valentine's Day!

UPCOMING BRANCH EVENTS

- Feb. 21 - Lunch at Delancey Street, SF
- Mar. 14 - Branch Program on Earthquake Preparedness
- Mar. 21 - AAUW-CA Leadership Develop.
- Apr. 20 - Spring Fundraising Luncheon

Delancey Street Restaurant Reservations Are Due Immediately

If you plan to attend our very special Delancey Street Restaurant luncheon on Saturday, February 21, you need to send your reservation to Carol Way by February 11th if you have not already done so.

See last month's Bay Leaves for the reservation form that specifies the three order selections: grilled fillet of salmon, rosemary and garlic chicken and Mediterranean vegetarian platter. The \$30 cost of each choice includes a complete four-course meal.

The restaurant is located at the corner of Brannan Street and the Embarcadero in San Francisco. Valet parking at the nominal cost of \$4.00 is available on the Embarcadero side of the restaurant. If you have any questions, call Betty Bernstein.

Eighteenth Annual Spring Fundraiser & General Meeting 2015

Spring will be here soon and with it comes our branch fundraising luncheon. We will be returning to the Wedgewood Banquet Center @ the Crystal Springs Golf Course on Monday, April 20th. We are honored to have as our featured speaker this year Rita Williams, who has been a top reporter at channel 2 (KTVU-TV) for more than 30 years. She retired last year, and we are excited to hear about her trailblazing career in what was then a largely male dominated industry. We are happy to announce being able to once again accept **one check** only for this event. The cost will stay the same as last year - \$47.00. The board has voted to give the donation portion of the money to NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) scholarships. Details will be in the March issue of the Bay Leaves.

Elissa James

MEMBERSHIP TREASURER

Carol Way

Membership as of 1/01/2015: 166

Directory Changes:

Sue Gill: suesgill@comcast.net

Jean Cormack: 4650 S. Highland Dr., #310
Salt Lake City, UT 84117-7078

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Diana McDonough

Diana recently moved to San Mateo from Sonoma to be near family. She recently retired after being an attorney for school districts for 30 years. She received her BA in history from Smith College and subsequently a MA in history from UC Berkeley and her JD in law from Loyola Law School.

She recently founded Global Grandmothers with a few friends, an organization which encourages grandmothers to give to children in need when they give to their own grandchildren. Diana loves to read, cook and hike, and is interested in the Hiking and Great Decisions interest sections.

Kate Parnes

Kate has been a resident of the Bay Area since 1967 and has lived in her current residence in Emerald Hill, Redwood City, for 27 years. Her career focused on public school administration in the area of special education. Since retiring in 2005, she has continued to provide consulting services to school districts to a limited degree. Her education includes a BA in European history from Santa Clara University and a MA in special education from SF State.

She volunteers at the Second Harvest Food Bank and is a board member of Global Grandmothers. Her interests include reading, politics, cooking, tennis, hiking, travel, and also Great Decisions, Dining Out, Public Policy/Current Events and Hiking.

TECH TREK

Maureen Buchner

We are really looking forward to our 2015 Tech Trek Camp. We have received a grant from Lockheed- Martin and donations from other donors to the camp which will enable us to replace our old, dying laptops. Lockheed- Martin engineer, Dr. Alison Nordt, has been helping the girls for several years in her evening class on structural engineering. She is the program manager for the NIR Cam on the James Webb Space Telescope, and she sets the tone early in the week for their "Build-It" night. Kudos to Lockheed-Martin and Dr. Nordt!

Of course, we couldn't do any STEM camp without the donors from our branches who sponsor our students each year. So, thank you for continuing to send 8 students to Tech Trek Camp at Stanford again this summer. The girls will have an amazing week! Camp Grace Hopper will be running from 7/5/2015 and Camp Curie will follow the week after.

If you would like to donate, make your check out to AAUW CA SPF and send it to Maureen Buchner. The branches pay 900.00 for each scholarship. What a bargain for the best week of their young lives!

IN MEMORIUM

Alice Jamieson, Life and 50-year member of AAUW, graduated from Newcomb College (now part of Tulane University) in 1942. She joined our branch in 1963, becoming active immediately. Board positions she held were Section Chair, Vice President of Membership and for many years our faithful Membership Treasurer keeping the records by hand (no computer for Alice). Alice was a long-time member of the Fact and Legend section, Book Discussion and Gourmet Dining. The branch honored Alice in 1976 and again in 1997 as a Name Grant Fellowship Honoree.

In addition to her AAUW membership, Alice was past president of San Mateo Panhellenic and the San Mateo Historical Association Auxiliary, as well as many other organizations.

Thank you, Alice, for your contributions to AAUW and the community.

AAUW Washington Update

January 16, 2015

by Erin Prangley
Associate Director of Government Relations

I'm sure you've noticed the emphasis on K-12 education policy in recent issues of *Washington Update*. For months, rumors have been circulating that 2015 would be a big year for this issue – and this week, we saw policymakers issue statements in an effort to frame the education policy debate.

In a speech on Monday, Education Secretary Arne Duncan staked out his position on what Congress should prioritize in its reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which was last updated in 2002 under the title of "No Child Left Behind." He urged Congress to retain important accountability measures such as annual testing and public reporting of testing results. AAUW values public education and believes that we need to close the achievement gap, protect civil rights, and hold schools accountable to meeting educational goals. Annual testing and public reporting of students' results by subgroups are two important tools to help ensure that accountability.

The day after Secretary Duncan's speech, the top Democrat and Republican on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) committee each released their outlines for ESEA reauthorization. HELP Committee Chairman Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) signaled openness to loosening testing requirements while still mandating that schools break-out testing results by subgroups. However, his draft contains a troubling "portability" proposal that would allow public funds under Title I to be distributed freely across the public school system, which paves the way for allowing private school vouchers. On the Senate floor on Tuesday, HELP Committee ranking member Patty Murray (D-WA) offered a strong defense of annual testing as "one of the most important tools we have" and called on Congress to include another AAUW priority in ESEA reauthorization: increased access to early childhood education.

Lawmakers will hold hearings over the next few weeks and try to arrive at a bipartisan ESEA reauthorization bill that Sen. Alexander hopes to send to the Senate floor by the end of February. But that's not the only development in education policy we're watching: Just last month, the Department of Education released guidance to K-12 schools that want to offer single-sex classes. AAUW welcomed this guidance, which makes it clear that schools must base their decision to offer single-sex classes on sound research evidence, as opposed to discriminatory gender stereotypes. The National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education (NCWGE), which AAUW leads, is hosting a webinar on January 28 for educators, parents, and other interested parties to learn more about the Department of Education's recent guidance on single-sex education.

As you can see, January is a busy month for education policy! I hope you'll contact your senators about ESEA reauthorization and register for the free NCWGE webinar if you're interested in learning more about single-sex education. As always, stay tuned for more updates!

Shake, Rattle and Roll

Everything You Need to Know to Safeguard
Your Home, Possessions and the People
You Love from Life's Unexpected Emergencies

People in the Bay Area often think of April as our earthquake month because of San Francisco's notorious quake and fire of April 1906.

Since we often need a reminder to protect our homes, keepsakes and loved ones, we have invited Clint Steele, PhD. (Judy Steele's husband), a retired geologist and longtime employee of the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, to tell us a month ahead of time on Saturday, March 14, how to prepare for earthquakes and other natural calamities that may occur in the future.

Dr. Steele's talk will be held at 1 p.m. at the SMCCD board room at 3401 CSM Drive, San Mateo, so be sure to put this event on your calendar.

The Anderson Collection

If you haven't ventured to the Stanford campus lately, you're in for a real treat when you visit the new museum for the Anderson collection. It sits right next door to the Cantor.

When you walk in the door, you encounter two colorful sculptures. Begin by watching a video of the Anderson family, commenting on their 121 works of art that are being moved to their new home at Stanford. Their collection of works of modern and contemporary art was begun after a trip to Europe in the early 60's.

Visit the light, airy galleries upstairs and enjoy the variety of works and the varied artists: (Thiebaud, Rothko, Diebenkorn, etc.) Then head back downstairs to spend some time viewing Peaceful Presence: Leo Holub and the Artist Portrait Project, which was commissioned by the Andersons beginning in the 1970's. These are the individuals who created the art that the Andersons acquired. Admission is free, and it is closed on Tuesdays.

Maureen Buchner

News from Jackie Speier

January 17, 2015

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year and happy new Congress! This weekend marks the second week of the 114th Congress, and I thought I would give you an update on how we've spent our time. Unfortunately, it has been more of the usual do-nothing Congress. House Republican leadership has brought up partisan vote after partisan vote. So far, I have opposed the Keystone XL pipeline, a measure to defund executive action on immigration, the 54th attempt to attack the Affordable Care Act, and a delay in key provisions of Dodd-Frank.

While it may feel like the beginning of another difficult year, even the difficult years can be constructive. Below, you'll find a list of all my legislative achievements from the last year. All of these were signed into law. You'll notice that nearly all of my achievements are amendments to the *National Defense Authorization Act* for Fiscal Year 2015 (NDAA FY15). Many of these began as standalone bills that I modified into amendments. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I've found that the amendment process for this necessary and bipartisan bill is the best way to pass things in the do nothing Congress:

(Here follows a partial list.)

Amended the NDAA FY15 to authorize a Department of Defense Inspector General review of spare parts costs. The DOD has an estimated \$96 billion in parts and inventory at any one time and has disposed of nearly \$15 billion in excess parts in the past three years. I have spoken on the House floor on this wasteful spending in a segment called "The Price is Wrong." You can watch "episodes" on my YouTube page.

Amended the NDAA FY15 to authorize women-owned small businesses for sole-source contracts under the same terms as other small business contracting programs and accelerates the disparity study to assess industries in the women-owned small business procurement program. Currently, women-owned small businesses account for only 0.19 percent of the \$50 billion designated for small businesses in fiscal year 2013. With this amendment, we will get closer to the 5% federal contracting goal.

Originally introduced as H.R. 520, the Buffalo Soldiers in the National Parks Study Act was incorporated into and passed with the NDAA FY15. This law will commemorate the all-African-American regiments of the U.S. Army who protected our National Parks, including Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks, at the turn of the 20th Century.

Amended the NDAA FY15 to take away a good military character defense in a case of military sexual assault. Until this amendment, members of the military could have their sentences reduced or pled away because of the "good soldier" defense.

Amended the NDAA FY15 to establish psychotherapist-patient privilege for members of the armed services.

While NDAA may be focused on our national defense, I've successfully used the amendment process to help women-owned small businesses, survivors of sexual assault, promote national parks, and combat wasteful spending of taxpayer dollars. Over the coming year, I will be investigating police militarization, our large intelligence community, and promoting cyber security. I feel more energized than ever to be productive, no matter the obstacles.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out to me and my office with any questions. We can help with a variety of issues, from Capitol tours to help navigating the immigration system. You can learn more under the Constituent Services tab on my website <http://speier.house.gov>.

All the best,



In case you forgot!

- In 1881, 18 women at MIT met to consider their future prospects and form a national organization of female college graduates.
- AAUW was founded by women who dared to get college degrees at a time when women's higher education wasn't valued or encouraged.
- In 1882, 65 women formed ACA (Association of Collegiate Alumnae) "to extend the privilege of higher education to other women and help educated women fit into a community that recognize their talents and potential."

FEBRUARY 2015 INTEREST SECTIONS

INTEREST SECTIONS CHAIR - Elissa James

Arts & Culture

Marge Denni
Marjorie Kobe
Friday, February 27, 10:30 AM
San Mateo County Historical Museum, 2200
Broadway in Redwood City. Contact Marge or
Maggie to confirm your attendance.

Book Discussion I

Elissa James
Thursday, February 19, 10:00 AM
Annette Delaney
The Season of the Witch by David Talbot

Book Discussion II

Mary Stella Flynn
Thursday, February 26, 12:00 Noon – 2 PM
Sally Roe
The Husband's Secret by Liana Moriarty

Book Discussion III

Sherrean Rundberg
Thursday, February 19, 1:30 – 3:30 PM
Pat Haupt
My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante

Book Discussion IV

Mikki Coffino,
Friday, February 27, 10:00 – 12 Noon
Maureen Buchner
The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

Bridge

Elissa James
Monday, February 16, 1 – 4 PM
June Hendrickson

California Fact & Legend

Helen Hatchett
Tuesday, February 3, 10:00 AM
Program: Joan Levy, topic- Hubert Howe Bancroft
(Bancroft Library at U.C. Berkeley)
Bobbi Benson
RSVP to Helen Hatchett by Saturday, January 31.

Dining Out

Jane Bradley
Wednesday, February 18, 6:30 PM
Tomatina Restaurant, 401 So. B Street, San Mateo
Hostess: Susan Rosenberg,

Drama Reading

Marjorie Kobe
Wednesday, February 4, 9:00 AM
Maggie Kobe

Ethnic Dining

Contact Mary for details.
Mary Faber
Wednesday, February 11, 6:30 PM

Ethnic Lunch

A Delaney
Wednesday, February 25, 11:30 AM
Scandia, 742 Polhemus Rd., San Mateo
RSVP to Annette by February 23

Foreign Affairs – Great Decisions

Carol Way
Thursday, February 12, 10:30-12:00
Maureen Buchner
TOPIC: Russia and Near Abroad

Hiking

Always 10 AM year-round
Bobbi Benson
Monday, February 9, POPOS (Privately Owned
Public Open Spaces) Walk #2
Monday, February 23, Laurelwood Park
To join us anytime, contact Bobbi.

Mah Jongg

Helen Hatchett
Thursday, February 12, 1:30 PM
Tuesday, February 24, 1:30 PM
For more info, contact Helen.

Membership: New and Prospective

Maureen Buchner
Wednesday, February 11, 1:30 PM - Coffee
Please RSVP to Maureen.

Mystery Book Group

Mikki Coffino,
Friday, February 13, 1:30 PM
Rashomon Gate by I. J. Parker
Specialty's Café & Bakery, 1886 S. Norfolk, SM

Public Policy/Current Events

Betty Bernstein
Diane Silven
**No meeting because the Delancey Street luncheon
on Feb 21 will take its place.**

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.

FEBRUARY 2015 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 CA Fact & Legend | 4 Drama | 5 Board Mtg. | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 Hiking | 10 | 11 Membership Ethnic Dining | 12 Foreign Affairs Mah Jongg | 13 Mystery Books | 14 |
| 15 | 16 Bridge | 17 | 18 Dining Out | 19 Books I Books III | 20 | 21 Delancey Street Lunch |
| 22 | 23 Hiking | 24 Mah Jongg | 25 Ethnic Lunch | 26 Books II | 27 Arts & Culture Books IV | 28 |
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