

# BAY LEAVES



AAUW/San Mateo

September 2013, Vol. 84, Issue 1

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Gayle Hardt & Helen Hatchett

### Welcome back to AAUW's 2013-2014 year!

We look forward to a great year of programs planned by Betty Bernstein and our section leaders. Please remember to check your Bay Leaves for times and locations. Also remember to look for the exciting new features such as Book Notes, Restaurant Reviews and even Travel Notes. Please contact Annette Delaney if you have an item that branch members might enjoy or find informative.

We are beginning the year with branch programs in September and October. Paula Gleason will host a tea on Saturday, September 21st from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. to honor our 50-year members. Please try to attend to honor these special women. Hats are optional!

Our annual Tech Trek event, featuring the middle school students we sent to Stanford for a one-week camp, will be a brunch held at the San Mateo Senior Center on Alameda de los Pulgas on Sunday, October 13th. Please take this opportunity to invite prospective members to join you as your guests (there will be no charge for your guests). It is very important that we continue to increase our membership to keep our branch viable. We really need your help to do this!

We will also be having a joint meeting with the North and Central San Mateo County League of Women Voters on Tuesday, October 22, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Silicon Valley Foundation office in San Mateo. There will be a panel discussion on the Changing Demographics of San Mateo County. This will be a great opportunity to meet some of the women in the League and invite them to join AAUW.

We hope to see many of you at our meetings and programs.

### Branch Will Host High Tea to Honor 50-Year Members on September 21

Our AAUW branch will hold an elegant High Tea honoring 50-year members on Saturday, September 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the home of Paula Gleason.

Paula suggested that we host such an event at her home, and our board enthusiastically agreed that we were definitely overdue in celebrating our longtime members. They are Zelta Adams, Jean Atkinson, Clarice Cook, Kay Colman, Betty Drisko, Martha Grannis, Lois Hand, Pauline Hicklin, Nancy Jalonen, Alice Jamieson, Jeanne Johnson, Marian Munroe, Ruth Nagler, Rosemarie Nickel, Vera Pitts, Lou Reed, Nancy Rubenstein, Sherrean Rundberg, Ruth Scammon, Barbara Schotzko, Gloria Sweatt, Virginia Thomson, Robin White and May-Blossom Wilkinson.

The tea will be open to all branch members and their families. A suggestion was made that since it will be a High Tea, those attending may wish to wear a hat of any size and description. In fact, the larger and more flamboyant the hat, the better....

Those members who will need a ride should call Betty Bernstein. She also would appreciate an RSVP response from anyone planning to attend even if they do not need transportation assistance.

### UPCOMING BRANCH EVENTS

- Sept. 21 - Tea honoring 50-yr. members
- Oct. 13 - Tech Trek Brunch
- Oct. 22 - Joint meeting with LWV
- Dec. 7 - Holiday Party
- Jan. 11 - Art Lecture by Kay Payne, FAMSF Docent

## MEMBERSHIP TREASURER

Carol Way

Members of the branch	122
50-year Honorary	24
National Life	11
Dual	7
August 1, 2013:	164

Thank you to the following members who made donations with their dues to AAUW Funds-EOF (\$695), AAUW Funds-LAF (\$315), Tech Trek (\$2,305) and Speech Trek (\$185), for a total of \$3,500:

Zelta Adams, Jean Atkinson, Mary Bates, Betty Bernstein, Beth Bhatnagar, Susan Blake, Ida Braun, Betty Drisko, Lois Everett, Gayle Flanagan, Pat Frates, Beverly Gaines, Paula Gleason, Joan Grant, Gayle Hardt, Audrey Jackson, Nancy Jalonen, Elissa James, Alice Jamieson, Marjorie Kobe, Marilyn Minto, Marian Munroe, Ruth Nagler, Rosemarie Nickel, Barbara Otter, Cynthia Robbins-Roth, Sue Rosenberg, Billie Lou Sands, Pauline Shumsky, Diane Silven, Helen Smith, Barbara Snedeker, Gloria Sweatt, Carol Way, May-Blossom Wilkinson.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!



**MADELAINE SOKOLSKY** is an east coast transplant from New York City. After completing a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in statistics from CCNY, she moved to California, first to the San Bernardino area and then to the Palos Verdes peninsula near Los Angeles. She received her teaching credential from CSU Dominguez Hills and accepted a full-time position there as a credential analyst and assistant to the dean in the school of education. She retired from that job after 20 years. Two years ago she moved to San Mateo to be near three of her four children who live in the Bay area.

Mady has served on the board of directors of a chamber music group. She enjoys other kinds of

music, as well as playing the piano and participating in singing groups. She is also very interested in current events and reading, and she has already joined the newly-formed Book Group IV.



The new branch financial officer, **JUDY STEELE**, received her BA in accounting from Cal State East Bay. She began her career in public accounting, working four years and obtaining her CPA. Her most recent position was Business Manager and CFO for the Capuchin Franciscan Order, Western America Province, at the Provincial offices in Burlingame. She retired in August 2012 after eleven years in that position. Tops on Judy's list of activities are reading and walking her dog, followed closely by swimming, kayaking, ziplining and travel. She has been a resident of Foster City for 32 years where she and her husband are currently co-leaders of their neighborhood CERT team (Community Emergency Response Training). In addition, she volunteers 10-15 hours per month at Filoli in the Gift and Garden Shop and with the Hospitality Committee.



**LESLIE POON** originally came to the Bay Area from her native Idaho in order to attend SFSU. After graduating with a BA in mathematics and obtaining her teaching credential, she has taught computer applications and mathematics in middle schools in the states of WA, MA, MD, DC and CA. As of two years ago, she is semi-retired and now teaches in the 4-9<sup>th</sup> grade afterschool programs in the Burlingame and South San Francisco Park and Recreation Departments.

She has belonged to AAUW branches everywhere she has lived, and during the nine years she lived in the state of Washington she served as branch president, treasurer, and historian. She has been a Life member of AAUW for more than 25 years. She loves soccer and played for 21 years, and hopes to coach a high school girls' team in the near future. She is an avid reader about the environment, the U.S. food system and of science fiction written by women, and is a computer games aficionado. She currently serves as president of her condo's homeowner association.

## TECH TREK

Maureen Buchner

The 8 students sent by the San Mateo Branch to Tech Trek Camp at Stanford had a fabulous week. The core classes were great, the afternoon and evening classes were engaging, and the dorm moms and junior counselors had so much fun, they all want to come back. Melinda Moir and I had an outstanding time, and we will be back as co-directors again. The girls went on off-campus trips related to their core classes, and they all went to NASA in Mountain View.

See and hear from all 8 girls at our Tech Trek Brunch on October 13th at the San Mateo Senior Center.



Here is an excerpt from a thank you note from Emily Peters: "I am so glad and thankful that there are people like you around, who give opportunities that can never be bought in a lifetime...I know that this camp will always be a diamond toward my future."

From Nika Eskandari: "I can't put into words how grateful I am to be at this camp. Thank you so much for sending me to this life-changing experience. My favorite subject in school is science, but here we learn through doing, and it is an awesome experience!"

"Thank you for sending me to Tech Trek. I really enjoyed Women's Professional Night and hearing about the different jobs... Physics was a blast and making the rockets was a lot of fun. We figured out the perfect combinations for firing the rockets. I also liked building the mouse trap cars. Working as a group really gets me thinking."...from Olivia Geiser-Vaughan.

## PUBLIC POLICY

Betty Bernstein

### Public Policy Group Will Discuss Establishing Facility to Assist Local Mentally Ill Individuals

Our Public Policy/Current Events discussion group will open its fall season with a program focusing on efforts to create a special meeting place for persons suffering from mental illness. The meeting will be held Tuesday, Sept. 17, from 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon at the home of Diane Silven, 730 Walnut Ave., Burlingame. The meeting is open to all AAUW members, family and friends.

Subject of the meeting will be "Clubhouse...a Source of Hope for Mental Health." Juliana Fuerbringer, president of the recently formed organization is attempting to create a local membership based social/vocational community organization that will provide a safe and accepting place where participants can socialize with friends and co-workers can access educational and employment opportunities in order to reach their full potential.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Joint AAUW/League of Women Voters Meeting Will Discuss Future of San Mateo County

"Envisioning the Future of San Mateo County" will be the subject of a joint meeting of our AAUW branch and the League of Women Voters of North and Central San Mateo County on Tuesday, October 22nd at the Silicon Valley Foundation office, 1300 South El Camino Real, San Mateo.

The program from 1 to 3 p.m. will feature a panel discussion by Supervisor Carole Groom. Adrienne Etherton, executive director of Sustainable San Mateo County, and Lee Michelson, CEO of the Sequoia Healthcare District.

Choice of this subject was based on recognition of the county's rapidly changing demographics caused, in part, by an aging population and increase in the number of younger multi-ethnic groups moving into the county. The high cost of available housing and the lack of affordable housing to accommodate the workforce that is needed to work here add to the complexity of the problems facing the county.

The meeting is open to members of both organizations and to the general public.



## SEPTEMBER 2013 INTEREST SECTIONS

Most sections meet in homes, so space is limited. A star \* indicates space is NOT available.

INTEREST SECTIONS CHAIR - Elissa James

### Arts & Culture

Marge Denni  
Marjorie Kobe

### \*Book Discussion I

Elissa James  
NO SEPTEMBER MEETING

### \*Book Discussion II

Jean Atkinson  
Thursday, September 26, 12 Noon – 2:00 PM  
*Secret Daughter* by Shilipi Somaya Gowda  
Donna Pribble

### \*Book Discussion III

Sherrean Rundberg  
Thursday, September 19, 1:30 - 3:30 PM  
Pauline Shumsky  
*Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

### Book Discussion IV

Maureen Buchner  
Friday, September 27, 10 AM  
*White Teeth* by Zadie Smith  
Marlene Coffino

### California Fact & Legend

Helen Hatchett  
Tuesday, September 3, 10:00 AM  
"Spiritualism of the 19th and early 20th Centuries" by  
Joan Levy  
Diane Silven  
RSVP to Helen Hatchett by Friday, August 30

### Daytime Bridge

Elissa James  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, Sept 16, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

### Dining Out

Jane Bradley  
Wed., September 18, 6:30 pm  
Macaroni Grill, Hillsdale Mall, San Mateo  
RSVP by 9/14 to Jane Bradley

### \*Drama Reading

Marjorie Kobe  
NO SEPTEMBER MEETING

### Ethnic Dining

Mary Faber Wednesday, September 11, 6:30 PM  
Lai Lai Restaurant, 334 Broadway, Millbrae  
Notify Mary Faber if you are interested in coming.

### Ethnic Lunch

Annette Delaney  
Wednesday, September 25, 11:30 AM  
China Village, 600 Ralston Ave., Belmont, CA  
RSVP to Lyn Haithcox by Friday, September 20

### Foreign Affairs – Great Decisions

Carol Way  
Thursday, September 12, 10:30-12:00  
Maureen Buchner  
Topic: EGYPT

### \*French – Intermediate

Joan Goble  
Every Monday, 10:30 AM

### Hiking Always 10 AM, year round

Bobbi Benson  
Mon., Sept. 9: Eastern Pacific Hts. Architecture Walk  
starting at Haas-Lilienthal House, 2007 Franklin St.  
Sat., Sept. 21: Sam McDonald County Park  
To join us anytime, call or email Bobbie.

### Membership: New and Prospective NEW GROUP

Maureen Buchner  
Mon., Sept. 16, Wine and Cheese, 5:30 – 7:30 PM  
Please RSVP to Maureen

### Movies 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

Pat Haupt  
NO SEPTEMBER MEETING

### Public Policy/Current Events

Betty Bernstein  
Jeanne Duggan  
Tues., September 17, 10:30 a.m.-12 Noon  
"Clubhouse...A Source of Hope for Mental Health"  
Our speaker will be Juliana Fuerbringer, president of  
California Clubhouse, San Mateo County.  
Diane Silven

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

NONPROFIT ORG US POSTAGE PAID SAN MATEO, CA PERMIT NO. 138
---

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**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.*

### SEPTEMBER 2013 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 F & L	4	5 Board Meeting	6	7
8	9 Hiking French	10	11 Ethnic Dining	12 Foreign Affairs	13	14
15	16 French Day Bridge Membership	17 Public Policy	18 Dining Out	19 Book III	20	21 Hiking
22	23 French	24	25 Ethnic Lunch	26 Book II	27 Book IV	28
29	30 French					

## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

### Judy Laird

The reception for our scholarship recipients on June 1 was a lovely affair. Five of the seven recipients, together with a few parents, were able to attend, and as always, it was interesting to hear their stories.

The Kathleen A. Smith Memorial scholarship of \$5,000 was awarded to **Aye Thwin** who came to the U.S. from Burma at the age of 16. She received an AA in biochemistry from Skyline, and will be attending UC Berkeley. Her ultimate goal is to be a pediatrician.

The Ethel Gayman scholarships, in the amount of \$3,000 each, were awarded to the following:

**Marissa Buell** was raised in Southern California in a family using only solar and wind power. At Canada College she was a member of WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) and she will study mechanical engineering at UCLA.

**Gabriel Denham**, a 4.0 GPA student at CSM, was very active in campus activities and tutored in math and science. He is currently participating in a summer internship at Cornell and this fall will be entering Columbia University. He plans to complete a doctoral program in physics.

**Leon Gutierrez**, born in Mexico, found his love for mathematics when he participated in Math Olympics at his high school here in the U.S. He majored in math at Skyline and plans to continue in that major at UC Berkeley.

**San Htun**, born in Burma, studied computer science in Singapore and worked as a project leader in a hospital prior to coming to the US. She plans to complete a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and continue to medical school.

**Mandira Shrestha**, from Nepal, was a math tutor and maintained a 4.0 GPA at CSM. She intends to major in electrical engineering and technology at UC Berkeley.

**Thoe Sin** emigrated from Burma in 2009, and while at Skyline was a 4.0 GPA student and earned an AA in chemistry-physics. She plans to continue in this field at UC San Diego.

### Excerpts of Thank-You Notes from Scholarship Recipients

“Through the support of the this awesome scholarship, I am well on my way to achieving my academic goals and hope that with my degree, I will be able to make a difference for others in a way as meaningful as the AAUW San Mateo Scholarship has for me. Therefore, I am truly grateful for the assistance that I am receiving because of you.

“Thank you so much for your help, this scholarship would make my dream of becoming a mathematician more attainable.

“Thank you so much for your kindness and contribution to education...Now, I can more focus on my school rather than working.....You just made my educational pathway smoother.

## MEMBERSHIP VICE-PRESIDENTS

Maureen Buchner & Jeanne Swapp

A new member coffee was held at the home of Maureen Buchner on August 8th. This gave 4 new members (Judy Steele, Linda Brown, Susan Cioni, and Mady Sokolsky) and 4 prospective members a chance to hear about the San Mateo Branch of AAUW, including projects, scholarships and interest groups. It was a lot of fun, and several new members have joined.

There will be a monthly gathering for new and prospective members on the 3rd Monday of the month, from 5:30-7:30p.m. at Maureen's for wine and cheese and membership fellowship. New and prospective members are always invited, to learn about AAUW and the San Mateo Branch. Call Maureen for further information. The prospective member/new member meetings will begin on September 16th. Please tell a friend about AAUW, or better yet, invite them to join you at Maureen's.

## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Once again, the Board of Directors wishes to thank **Cindy Robbins-Roth** for maintaining the branch's member roster and publishing the 2013-14 Yearbook. Not only that, she prints the mailing labels for the monthly newsletter! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

### **The following motions were passed by the board as of August 1:**

1. To consolidate the two CD's into the checking account in order to avoid the new Boston Bank monthly service charge.

2. To change the delivery of the Bay Leaves to online service next year and charge a \$10 fee to members who request hard copies.
3. To increase the fee for the Tech Trek Brunch from \$10 to \$15.
4. To accept the proposed 2013-2014 budget.

## BOOK NOTES

Judy Laird

AH, PARIS. . . three books that will give you an insight into the life and times of Paris in different eras.

David McCullough's ambitious **The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris** is a well-researched, nonfiction book about the extraordinary influence of Paris as the intellectual, scientific, and artistic capital of the western world. Among others, in the 1900's such notables as Samuel F.B Morse, August Saint-Gaudens, John Singer Sargent and Mary Cassatt are illuminated.

In Edward Rutherfurd's **Paris - The Novel**, history becomes amazingly alive through the characters and families in pivotal times from medieval years to 21st century. You feel the tension between aristocrats and the working class, clashing family dynamics and religious fervent gone to extremes.

**A Paris Wife** by Paula McLain captures the essence of the early twenties in Paris via the story of Hadley, the first wife of Ernest Hemmingway. The reader is there with her in the exciting social swirl and the unraveling of a marriage.

If you have been Paris, you may want to revisit it. If you haven't been to Paris, you may want to plan an itinerary. Or, you may just want to view the DVD of **Midnight in Paris**, written and directed by Woody Allen, and starring Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams, Marion Cotillard, Léa Seydoux and Adrien Brody for an instant, memorable trip!