

MARCH 2009

# THE ADVOCATE

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Great Decisions.

International Women's Day.

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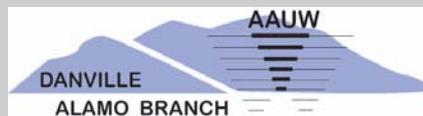
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Tena Gallagher,  
President



**AAUW ADVANCES EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

Published ten times per year by the Danville-Alamo Branch of AAUW

## WOMEN SPEAK OUT:

### *An Evening of Monologues (A Legal Advocacy Fund fundraiser)*

#### Danville-Alamo AAUW Raise Fundraiser for LAF

Save the evening of Saturday, March 14, and join us at Montair School, 300 Quinterra Lane, Danville, to see our stellar thespians perform a host of roles in *WOMEN SPEAK OUT: An Evening of Monologues* which invites you into the intimate world of women—at times poetic, magical, shocking...always entertaining.

This collection of classic and contemporary monologues is directed by B. Lynn Goodwin, Come and support Penny Adams, Asha Bajaj, Suzanne Goldstein, Georgie Daring, Kathy Harkins, Jan Hersh, Caroline Sanchez, Dora-Thea Porter, and Sukanya Sarkar, who all give outstanding performances..

This is a fundraiser for the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). Donations are \$10 at the doors which open at 7:30 P.M. The performance begins at 8:00 P.M.

*Dora-Thea Porter*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The flowers are starting to unfold. Spring is here. This is my favorite time of year. The days are getting longer so I can do more. And, this month is packed with fun things to do with your fellow branch members.

I hope that you will join us at the Walnut Creek Century 14 on Thursday, March 5, at 8 P.M. for the movie, *A Powerful Noise*. Read more details on page 6.

Thanks to Roseann Krane for organizing our February Educational Foundation dinner with the Pleasant Hill branch of AAUW and DKG. We were all very proud of the assistance AAUW has given Linjun Fan, our International EF fellow, to allow her to come to study at UC Berkeley from China. We can be sure that is not the last that we have heard about such a talented woman!!

If you haven't made it to a Great Decisions meeting yet, please contact Joan Ward if you'd like to attend Monday evenings or Gus Slavin if you are interested in Tuesday's at 1 P.M. They will continue through the end of this month.

As a member, you are always invited to attend our board meetings, usually on the first Friday of each month at 9:15 A.M. at Shadow Hills Cabana. You will learn more about the behind the scene events and maybe help us brainstorm. So come on Friday, March 6.

-Continued -

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont'd.)

Our third movie discussion group is forming on Friday, March 6, at 7:30 P.M. at Harlean L'Engle's home. If you love movies and love discussing them even more, please RSVP Harlean if you plan to attend.

I will be leading our March 10 hike to Briones Regional Park looking for the western bluebird. Contact Tena Gallagher if you can join us. She has organized hikes once a month.

On Friday, March 13, I'll be at the Bagel St. Café in the Livery hoping that you will join me so that we can get to know each other better and learn interesting facts about each other.

Come and support our branch's first theatrical performance: *Women Speak Out, An Evening of Women's Monologues* on Saturday, March 14, at Montair School, 300 Quinterra Lane, Danville at 8:00 P.M. This is a Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) benefit so we are asking for at least a \$10 donation but more would really be welcomed. I have seen them rehearsing during the past two months and we are in for a real treat.

John and I will be hosting the Travel Group on Friday, March 20, at 7:30 P.M. when we discuss the Galapagos Islands. Please let Marcia Steinhardt know if you will be coming.

Our local scholarship application is on our web site at [www.aauw-da.org](http://www.aauw-da.org) for students

to print and complete before the April 6 deadline. Applicants must have graduated from San Ramon Valley Unified School District or resided in the district when attending a private school. Applicants must be a college junior or higher as of September, 2009, at an accredited four-year college or university. Graduate students may also apply. Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of scholarship, educational goal, financial need and campus or community involvement. Any questions, call Phyllis at 939-4814.

Our branch will be celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an Oktoberfest on October 10. Kathie Hixon and Cheryl Kohleriter are chairing this committee but they need help putting on this party. Are you interested? It should be great fun looking through some of the old photos and making plans. Please let them know if you will help on this committee.

I hope that you have agreed to volunteer when the nominating committee contacted you. It's a great opportunity to get to know so many enthusiastic, supportive and intelligent women who make things happen in our communities.

*Tena Gallagher  
President*

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## GREAT DECISIONS 2009

Great Decisions continues this month! This annual discussion group will meet to discuss topics pertaining to foreign affairs. Great Decisions is America's longest standing global affairs education program and is the centerpiece of the longest-running civic education program in the United States devoted to foreign affairs.

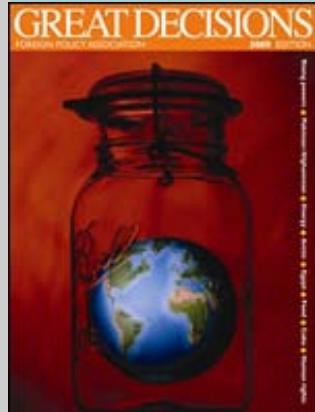
*Joan Ward, Martha Slavin, and Roseann Krane  
Section Leaders*

Night group meets on Mondays  
7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

03/02: Host: Sandy Hoffman at 837-8759.  
03/09: Host: TBA  
03/16: Host: Putnam  
03/23: Host: Carole Allen at 837-8407

Day group meets on Tuesdays  
1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

03/03: Host: Carol Varian at 314-1876.  
03/10: Host: Merilyn Milam at 837-3576.  
03/17: Host: Marian Bliss at 820-4709  
03/24: Host: Cheryl Kohleriter at 820-6158.



## APRIL BRANCH PROGRAM

Please mark your calendars for a fabulous, entertaining luncheon meeting with speaker Penny Warner on Tuesday, April 21, at 11:30 A.M. Penny is a Danville resident who has written over 50 books, some on the bestseller list. She has won several national awards and writes a weekly column in the *Contra Costa Times*. In addition to her writing, Penny gives writing workshops and seminars. Lunch will be catered by Sunrise Café. Watch for complete details in the April Advocate.

*Carole Allen  
Program Co-Vice-President*

## NINTH ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR

**FRIDAY, MAY 8, AND SATURDAY, MAY 9**

One of the most gratifying feelings is that of accomplishment. As a member of AAUW we have several opportunities to achieve, accomplish and make a difference in someone else's life. Our Garden Tour is one of the ways in which you can find this gratification. The funds raised support our Educational Foundation which is the world's largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women. This foundation supports aspiring scholars around the globe, teachers and activists in local communities, women at critical stages of their careers, and those pursuing professions where women are underrepresented.

Spend a day experiencing the lushly planted backyard gardens of eight exceptional homes in Danville and Alamo. Our ninth annual garden tour will be held on Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9 (Mother's Day Weekend). Please consider assisting us in this fund raiser. We have several key positions to fill, including a Food Coordinator and Head Docents for each of the gardens.

There will be four shifts at each garden which will need docent staffing to help direct people and answer questions. Can you bake some cookies or provide other refreshments? Attend the event with all of your friends?! Your help would be immensely appreciated.

Please contact your Co-Vice-Presidents, Connie Cady, 743-0517, or Mary Mix, 831-1784, with the wonderful news that you can help!

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*Connie Cady and Mary Mix  
EF Co-Vice-Presidents*

## JO HARBERSON ENDOWMENT FUND COMPLETED

*"...this endowment fund has been highly recognized and, with your help, we have carried this new fund through the completion mark of \$75,000."*

Last fall, we invited you to join us with year-end EF designations to the Joan (Jo) Densmore Harberson R&P #4313. Opened in November, 2007, this endowment fund has been highly recognized and, with your help, we have carried this new fund through the completion mark of \$75,000.

Along with our state EF Vice President, Rozanne Child, we hope you will continue to make generous designations to other EF funds such as the new \$25,000 Leticia Corum Memorial Fund #4329 which will be used in its entirety toward the printing and distribution of the next AAUW research report on Girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) which is slated for publication next January. As many know, Leticia was an AAUW-CA Director serving as the Chief Financial Officer.

Please make future EF donation checks payable to AAUW-CA EF. Indicate the fund closest to your own hearts and with "soft" credit to your own branch. Any size donation is always welcome. Mail checks to: AAUW CA EF VP, PO Box 160067, Sacramento, CA 95816-0067.

Thanks for your continuing support of AAUW EF, for helping to close R&P #4313, and for taking time to share this note of appreciation with your branch. State Convention is approaching in April! We hope to see you there!

*Kelly Claussen, OML EF Vice-President  
Pat Lopker, EF Committee Member  
Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette AAUW Branch*

## NEW MEMBERSHIP CO-VICE-PRESIDENT

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Pat DeRensis as my Membership Co-Vice-President! Pat was elected by the board on February 6 and begins her duties immediately. She brings a strong knowledge of AAUW (she has served as president of our branch) and its practices. I welcome her with open arms as it has been a difficult journey to perform all of the membership's functions alone. Welcome Pat!

*Sharon Cohune  
Membership Co-Vice-President*

## NEW AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBER TEA

A hearty thank you to everyone who made this year's tea so successful! It was enjoyed by over 30 people on a bright and warm February afternoon.

Thank you to Diane Tinnes, who gave so generously to have this event in her home. It was quite evident that much effort went into the beautiful table that was set with a

lovely floral arrangement from her garden, to the well-thought-out serving of the delicious variety of foods that were served.

A thanks for all of the planning and making of arrangements goes to JoAnne Dahlin and Kerry Montalvo, two new members who made up my committee. What a wonderful way to jump

- continued -



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## NEW AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBER TEA (Cont'd.)

right in and help out in planning your own new-member event! It was a delight to work together!

It wouldn't have been so special without all of the delicious tea sandwiches and goodies provided by Loretta Altshuler, Gus Slavin, JoAnne Dahlin, Pat DeRensis and Mary Mix...a big thanks to all of you!

*Sharon Cohune  
Membership Co-Vice-President*

## IN MEMORIAM: MARIAN WICKLINE, 1916-2009

We are sad to report that Marian Wickline passed away on January 27 at her home in Placerville. Marian received a degree in Chemistry from Mills College in 1935 and worked at Dow Chemical. She lived in Danville from 1961 to 1988 and was active in community affairs. She was a member of AAUW, American Chemical Society and the Special Libraries Association.

## PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW proudly announces that Lilly Ledbetter will speak at its 2009 National Convention in St. Louis, MO. AAUW's convention, Breaking through Barriers, runs June 26-28, 2009. Having Lilly Ledbetter speak at its convention is a proud moment for an organization which has long championed our right to a fair pay act in her honor. President Obama made The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act his first order of business as he signed it into law.

Elena Kagan, dean of Harvard Law School, accepted President Obama's nomination to the office of Solicitor General to represent the administration's political views by making legal arguments on cases related to the federal government before the Supreme Court. Kagan is the first female nominee to this position, and is expected to be confirmed in the next few weeks.

After eight years of an administration banning federal grants for stem cell research resulting in U.S. scientific talent going to European and Asian institutions, the times have changed. There are reports from US university science departments of adult stem cell research that is promising, though so much more has to develop in getting these cells to change as the embryonic cells do. So far, the embryonic stem cells are still the gold standard.

Senator Barbara Boxer will be chairing a new Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy, and Global Women's Issues. This is the first ever subcommittee to encompass a specific focus on global women. Senator Boxer introduced the International Women's Freedom Act of 2009 last month. The bill would create a new State Department office to focus on international women's rights. An ambassador at large and a federal commission would lead the new department and inform Congress and President Obama about the status of women's rights abroad.

International Women's Day will be celebrated on March 5. Join AAUW in this important celebration. AAUW supports comprehensive international family planning programs for women around the world, which once again are available with a full range of reproductive health information and services.

*Cynthia Savell, Public Policy*

## Celebrate International Women's Day with AAUW and CARE through A POWERFUL NOISE Live!

Through AAUW's and CARE's partnership, AAUW encourages you to join CARE ([www.care.org](http://www.care.org)) and more than 120,000 people gathering in 400 theaters across the U.S. to celebrate International Women's Day 2009. On the evening of March 5, CARE is hosting an unprecedented one-night event featuring the theatrical premiere of *A Powerful Noise*, an acclaimed documentary that follows three extraordinary women: Hanh is an HIV-positive widow in Vietnam, Nada is a survivor of the Bosnian war, and Jacqueline educates girls in Mali. The film takes you inside the lives of these women to witness their daily challenges and significant victories over poverty and oppression.

Immediately following the film, theater-goers will participate in a town hall meeting broadcast live from New York. It will feature renowned activists and experts who will discuss how we can help empower women around the world.

AAUW members across the country plan to attend this event as our **official International Women's Day program for 2009**. Our branch will be watching it at the Walnut Creek Century 14 starting at 8 P.M. The tickets are \$15 and you can buy them online at [www.apowerfulnoise.org](http://www.apowerfulnoise.org). Watch the trailer at <http://www.apowerfulnoise.org/trailer.html>.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Brenda Davis  
 Karen Fox  
 Patricia Gross  
 Carolyn Priest  
 Gail Smith  
 Barbara Tillinghast  
 Deborah Wiener



Check out our website for full-text articles on Pages 9 & 10 of *The Advocate* on the following:

- Highlights of proposed AAUW Bylaws
- *Emily's Bridge*
- AAUW Amador Home Tour

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## MARCH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS CALENDAR

- 03/05 8:00 P.M. *A POWERFUL NOISE Live!* Walnut Creek Century 14. Contact Tena Gallagher at 837-0826. Details on Page 6.
- 03/06 9:15 A.M. *Board Meeting.* Tena Gallagher, President. The Shadow Hills Cabana, 1001 El Capitan Drive, Danville.
- 03/06 7:30 P.M. *Movie Group #3. Slumdog Millionaire.* Hosting: Harlene L'Engle. Contact Kathie Hixon at 838-8632.
- 03/10 8:30 A.M. *Hiking Group.* Meet at Sycamore Park 'N Ride to carpool to Briones Regional Park. Leader: Tena Gallagher at 837-0826.
- 03/11 7:30 P.M. *Evening Bridge.* Contact Barbara Neson.
- 03/13 9:30 A.M. *Monthly Coffee Get-Together.* Bagel St. Café, Livery. Contact Tena Gallagher at 837-0826.
- 03/13 11:00 A.M. *Art & Garden. Timbuktu to Cape Town Exhibit* at Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University. To register, contact Jacque Schubert at 855-7002.
- 03/13 7:30 P.M. *Cinema 1.* Contact Susan Terzuoli at 820-9071.
- 03/13 7:30 P.M. *Oscar 1.* Contact Iris Stone at 831-8731.
- 03/14 ---- *Golf.* For time and place, contact Nadine Rosenzweig at 487-1774 or Maryanne Cucchiaro at 785-4915.
- 03/14 8:00 P.M. *Women Speak Out.* An LAF fund raiser. Details on Page 1.
- 03/16 9:30 A.M. *Daytime Bridge.* Contact Mary Kay Anderson.
- 03/20 7:00 P.M. *Travel Group.* The Galapagos Islands. Hosting: Tena Gallagher at 837-0826.
- 03/23 9:30 A.M. *Daytime Duplicate Bridge.* Contact Sandy Hoffman at 837-8759.
- 03/24 7:30 P.M. *Evening Literature. Funny in Farsi* by Firoozeh Dumas. Hosting: Nadine Rosenzweig at 736-5708.
- 03/26 9:30 A.M. *Daytime Literature. Wizard of the Crow* by Ngugi Wa'Thiong'O. Hosting: Marlena Garcelon at 820-4594.
- 03/29 5:00 P.M. *Wine Group.* Hosting: Barbara Critchlow at 287-1543.

## 2008-09 BRANCH PROGRAMS

- 3/14 8:00 P.M. *Women Speak Out* (LAF benefit).
- 4/21 11:30 A.M. Guest speaker: Penny Warner. Shadow Hills. Luncheon.
- 4/24 - 4/26 ---- 88<sup>th</sup> AAUW—CA Convention, San Diego.
- 5/8 & 5/9 10:00 A.M. — 4:00 P.M. Annual Garden Tour (EF benefit).
- 5/19 7:30 P.M. Dessert with Budd MacKenzie, Trust in Education (TIE).
- JUNE 6:30 P.M. Installation & Awards Presentations.
- 6/26 to 6/28 ---- National AAUW Convention, St. Louis, MO.

### PRESIDENT

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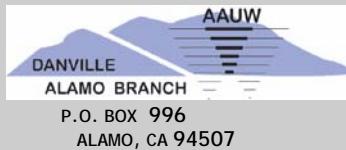
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## SAVE THE DATE

09/12: Membership Brunch. 10/10: Oktoberfest.



| MARCH |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S     | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
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| 15    | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22    | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29    | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

Females in developing countries on average carry 20 liters of water per day over 6 km.

Women own around only 1% of the world's land.



Women comprise 21 of the 37 million people living below the poverty line in the U.S.



Women's representation in computer and information sciences workforce is around 30% globally.



Women do two-thirds of the world's work but receive only 10% of the world's income

Only 21% of all news subjects (people interviewed or whom the news is about) are female.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF PROPOSED AAUW BYLAWS

by Sandy Kirkpatrick, AAUW-CA Parliamentarian & AAUW Bylaws Committee Member

AAUW's strategic planning process began in 2005, with a restructuring approved unanimously at the 2007 AAUW Convention. To complete this restructuring, newly revised bylaws will be presented for approval at the 2009 AAUW Convention at St. Louis.

### These bylaws will:

- streamline the current bylaws and move administrative details to policies and procedures;
- provide more flexibility on all levels (branch, state, and national); and
- provide more avenues for all members to participate in the organization, in particular giving every member a vote on national business.

### What will NOT change:

- mission-based activities and programming, including the work of the Educational Foundation, Legal Advocacy Fund, and Leadership Training Institute;
- public policy advocacy through the newly named "AAUW Action Fund;" and
- the unique mission and grassroots strength of AAUW.

### Summary of Major Changes:

1. **ONE MEMBER-ONE VOTE.** Instead of using a delegate system, every member will have a vote. Members who cannot attend meetings and vote in person will be able to vote by all methods approved by the corporate code of the District of Columbia and the Board (i.e., mail, phone, FAX or electronically).
2. **ONE BOARD.** AAUW and EF boards are merged into one board with authority over all aspects of AAUW activity, including:
  - delivery of the mission through programs and policies;
  - setting membership dues (part of financial administration oversight);
  - appointment of the directors of the AAUW Action Fund, for voter education and related political activities; and
  - appointment and oversight of AAUW committees and task forces, including determining the process for the awarding of fellowships and grants.
3. **MEMBERSHIP OPEN.** Membership is open to any individual supportive of the mission, without regard to college degree status, and to partner members. Partner membership broadens the current college/university membership category to include the possibility of other institutions or organizations that meet the criteria. Open individual membership provides an equal opportunity for all to join, in recognition that one does not need to have educational credentials to work for women's education.
4. **STRUCTURAL FLEXIBILITY.** Branches and states will not be required to make any changes if their current structure works well for them. However, the new bylaws mandate only an administrative and financial contact person from each branch/state, allowing the branches and states to create the structure and leadership positions that make the best use of their resources to fulfill AAUW mission.

The full bylaws, with rationale for each article is published on the AAUW website, along with a detailed list of frequently asked questions, visit:

[http://aa uw.org/About/bylaws/index.cfm?cs\\_LoginTime=225332](http://aa uw.org/About/bylaws/index.cfm?cs_LoginTime=225332).

(Membership number is required to login to this webpage)

For more information about the structural changes to AAUW, read the AAUW Briefing #18:

[http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/briefings/briefingRestructure\\_0210\\_09.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/briefings/briefingRestructure_0210_09.cfm).

**THE CITY VISIBLE: Emily's Bridge**  
By BONNIE YOCHELSONfrom *The New York Times*  
January 11, 2009

SHORTLY after graduating from Hunter College in 1978, the photographer Barbara Mensch moved from SoHo to the top floor of a walk-up on Water Street near the South Street Seaport. The charming but decrepit 19th-century brick building was shared by several artists, who sought the low rents and the seaport's industrial grittiness. Ms. Mensch and her neighbors now own the building, which they have renovated.

From windows facing west and from the roof of her loft, Ms. Mensch has views of the Brooklyn Bridge's span, the Manhattan entrance ramp and the Municipal Building. Recently added northern windows have created a special feature: Just outside looms the bridge's massive limestone anchorage, its gargantuan scale dwarfing the viewer within.

Although Ms. Mensch is most widely known for her photographs of the old Fulton Fish Market, to which two books have been devoted, she has also photographed the Brooklyn Bridge for nearly 30 years. As Mont Sainte-Victoire was for Cezanne, the bridge has been a constant in her life and her art. Capturing the bridge at all times of the day and the seasons of the year, she has learned as much about the river and the weather as about the bridge's structure.

Recently, Ms. Mensch has become fascinated with the bridge's history, especially the story of Emily Roebling, right, the remarkable wife of the bridge's engineer, Washington Roebling. When her husband fell ill with "the bends," Emily masked the extent of his illness, acting as his surrogate for 14 years.

In his 1972 work "The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge," the historian [David McCullough](#) writes: "By and by it was common gossip that hers was the real mind behind the great work and that this the most monumental engineering triumph of the age was actually the doing of a woman, which as a general proposition was taken in some quarters to be both preposterous and calamitous. In truth, she had by then a thorough grasp of the engineering involved."

Despite opposition, she won over her critics, and at the 1883 opening, Emily Roebling took the first ceremonial ride across the bridge with President Chester Arthur.

Ms. Mensch has begun to assemble her Brooklyn Bridge photographs into a book called "Emily's Bridge." The photographs shown here, all taken during the past 16 years, express her intimate knowledge of the span as well as her unabashedly romantic view of it. Often shrouded in mist, Ms. Mensch's bridge appears like an apparition from Emily's bygone era.

**AAUW AMADOR HOME TOUR APRIL 18**

Amador's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Tour this year will be in the Shenandoah Valley and Fiddletown, the heart of Amador wine industry and Gold Rush history. For more information contact Kelly Trottier, AAUW Home Tour Publicity Chair at [kjtrottier@volcano.net](mailto:kjtrottier@volcano.net), phone at (209) 223-9133; or FAX at (209)223-9134.