

THE ADVOCATE

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Garden Tour.

Hiking Group.

Take One.

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

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

MURDER, MYSTERY, AND GRANDMOTHERING, A WRITERS LIFE

Danville author, Penny Warner, will speak at our April 21 luncheon meeting. Penny has been writing since the 6th grade when she first read a Nancy Drew novel. She writes mystery novels, children's books, and conducts writing workshops throughout the country. Penny has published fifty books, among them many bestsellers. She has won many national awards and writes a weekly column for the Contra Costa Times newspaper.

Don't miss out on this entertaining afternoon! This meeting is the branch's annual meeting to elect next year's officers. It is important that we have a quorum. To entice your attendance, the branch will pay for half the price of the lunches.

TIME: Tuesday, April 21, 11:30 A.M., lunch at noon, speaker at 12:45 P.M.

PLACE: MERCER COMPLEX, 1655 No. California Blvd., Walnut Creek.

DIRECTIONS: From Danville/Alamo take No. California Blvd. to Cole Ave. Turn left on Cole and immediately turn left into the parking garage (free). An AAUW member will be in the garage to direct you to the meeting room.

MENU CHOICES: We will be having box lunches with the following choices:

Chicken Cashew Salad Sandwich (cashews, apples & celery mixed with mayo) on herb bread, with a pasta salad and fruit garnish.

Baked Ham Sandwich with a pasta salad and fruit garnish.

Greek Salad: Fresh spinach, feta, calamata olives & red onions, with Italian dressing and a roll.

Cobb Salad: Bacon, turkey, egg, tomatoes, avocado and bleu cheese on fresh greens and a roll.

Dessert and beverages are included.

RESERVATIONS: Please send a check for \$7.50 made out to Danville/Alamo AAUW with your menu choice to:

Carole Allen, 180 Montana Dr., Danville, CA 94526
Phone: 925-837-8407

If you need a ride please call Carole at the above number.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: April 17.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here! The weather is warm flowers are blooming. Our branch will be springing into the future when the slate of nominations for our leaders is presented at our annual meeting on Tuesday, April 21. The nominations are listed on Page 4. Come to our luncheon at the Mercer in Walnut Creek catered by Sunrise Catering. Take advantage of your branch's Stimulus Plan! We are offering lunch at 50% off our cost, \$7.50. We hope to see you then.



*Tena Gallagher,
President*

If you were not able to attend our *Women Speak Out* evening of monologues, you missed seeing some of our very talented members perform. Many thanks to them: Dora-Thea Porter, Suzanne Goldstein, Caroline Sanchez, Kathy Harkin, Jan Hersh and Asha Bajaj. Georgie Daring, Sukanya Sarkar and Penny Adams also presented monologues. Thanks to our members, Lynn Goodwin, director, and Susan Terzuoli, producer, for a fun evening and donations of \$1,150 for Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF).

We get to view eight fantastic gardens on our **May Garden Tour** thanks to Mary Mix and Connie Cady. I have seen several of them and know that you will be amazed by them. We need your help to make this a success. Please contact Connie or Mary and donate

one shift to be an attendant. I always go on the tour on Friday with friends and donate my time on Saturday as a docent. I am in charge of the ticket sales so I'll always have them with me for purchase. Or, mail a check to me or stop by East Bay Flowers in the Livery where tickets will be sold also. We are sorry that Leku Eder has gone out of business where we have had our tickets sales in the past. Jeannette Ugarte, the owner, was always so supportive of our tours.

Thanks to all our members who have called Sharon Cohune, Membership Co-Vice President, and had a prospective member packet sent to their friends. Our branch membership is over 200. All individuals who have recruited at least one new paid member will be entered in a drawing to win \$1,000 through AAUW. The drawing will be administered by the AAUW Membership Committee Chair in Washington, DC in June, 2009. So if you know someone who might be interested, call Sharon now. If they join within the next six weeks, you'll be entered in the \$1,000 drawing.

Tena Gallagher, President

TAKE ONE (formerly MOVIE GROUP 3)

Our third movie group has just been launched with a new name: Take One! We will meet on a Friday evening each month to review new movie releases. We will also have an Oscar Night and other social events. Our next meeting is on Friday, April 17, at 7:30 P.M. at the home of Harlene L'Engle to discuss *Two Lovers*. If you are interested, contact Harlean L'Engle at 968-9576.

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SNEAK PREVIEW - AAUW GARDEN TOUR 2009

Grab your sunglasses and don your hat, the 2009 AAUW Garden Tour is almost here! Enjoy two days of garden viewing pleasure Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9, from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. each day.

On the west side of Danville you will enjoy a "Hillside Garden" with two streams and thirteen waterfalls. The "California Working Garden" features 450 grapevines, an extensive fruit orchard, vegetable beds and lavender plants. And the "Mediterranean Villa" is surrounded by hundreds of oak trees with a grand view of Mt. Diablo.

On the east side of Alamo you will experience a "Serene Haven" of interwoven landscape and hardscape; it is tidy, elegant, manicured and yet relaxed and welcoming. The "Rocks in the Redwoods" opens onto a view of a pool with a luxuriant waterfall. And, surprise, there is a slice of tropical splendor lurking behind the "Alamo Jungle" garden.

Horses graze in pastures on the surrounding hillsides of the "Park-Like Country Garden" on the east side of Danville. The owners use their garden to produce much of their own fruit and vegetables. And see a "Colorful Woodland" in north Alamo with a mix of plants of highly vibrant texture and hue.

Tell your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and everyone you know about this opportunity to view eight exceptional gardens in Alamo and Danville. Tickets are only \$30 if postmarked by Saturday, May 2; they are \$35 thereafter. Tickets for seniors aged 65+ are \$25 throughout the tour. Mail a check payable to "Danville-Alamo AAUW EF" with a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to: AAUW Garden Tour, 400 Cliffside Dr, Danville, CA 94526.

All proceeds benefit AAUW's Educational Foundation which supports aspiring female scholars through grants and fellowships. Call your EF Co-Vice-Presidents Mary Mix, (925)831-1784 or Connie Cady, (925) 743-0517 with any questions. We hope to see you at the tour!

Garden Tour Help Welcomed

Yes! We need help staffing our Garden Tour. Can you serve as an attendant at one of the gardens? Can you bake some cookies or bars or provide other refreshments? Can you attend the event with all of your friends?! Your help and participation would be immensely appreciated. Please contact your EF Co-Vice President's, Connie Cady, (925) 743-0517, ccady@nccc.org or Mary Mix, (925) 831-1784, memix@sbcglobal.net with the wonderful news that you can help.

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

HIKE DEL VALLE, SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Lake Del Valle in Livermore is one of the "gems" of the East Bay Regional Parks. Let's plan to meet at the Sycamore Park and Ride for carpooling, at 8:30 A.M. Hiking options include:

Easier Route is a flat 2 mile round trip walk. You'll spend the first .75 miles with everyone, before some of us head uphill.

More Challenging Route: begins with the easier climb then we head up the ridge, for a fairly strenuous climb. Total hike distance/time is appx. 5 miles and 2.5 hours.

Picnic Lunch: If we have any energy left after hiking, there are many picnic grounds, where we can enjoy some relaxing time over a picnic lunch.

What to Bring: Comfortable and durable shoes (hiking boots or sturdy tennis shoes), water, Suntan lotion, and lunch or money for park admission (\$6.00 per vehicle) and lunch, if you wish to purchase yours at one of several concession stands around the lake.

Questions: Hike Leader - Mary Hanson, (925) 785-1415.



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ANNOUNCING THE 2009-10 SLATE OF OFFICERS FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Branch elections to be held at the Annual Meeting prior to the April Branch Program.

The branch elections will be held on April 21 at the Annual Meeting just prior to the April Branch Program (see Page 1 for details and special luncheon price.) The nominees are:

Co-Presidents: Marian Bliss and Kathie Hixon.

Co-Presidents-Elect: Mary Mix and Marcia Steinhardt.

Program Co-Vice-Presidents: Loretta Altshuler and Robin Halloron.

Membership Co-Vice-Presidents: Pat DeRensis and Barbara Critchlow.

EF Co-Vice-Presidents: Mary Mix and Jacque Schubert.

LAF Vice-President: To be determined.

Treasurer: Mary Hanson.

Secretary: Dora-Thea Porter.

Parliamentarian: Tena Gallagher.

Members of the Nominating Committee are Marian Bliss, Anne Long, Jacque Schubert, Pat DeRensis, and Bev Nidick.

EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS (EYH) UPDATE



Saturday, February 28, was a clear day sandwiched into a week of rain, lucky us! We had a wonderful turnout of 281 sixth through ninth graders attending the Math & Science Conference at Diablo Valley College-San Ramon. Girls came from as far away as Vallejo, Sacramento, Berkeley and Tracy. While 65% of the girls were from the Tri-Valley area (Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton), we did send 36 girls from Alamo and Danville. If San Ramon is included, then our school district had 72 girls (25%) at the Conference which is open to both public and private school girls. This was the first year that enrollment applications and on-line payment were available on the internet. A slide show of the conference is available at the following web site:

http://home.comcast.net/~dsporter/AAUW/ExpandHoriz_09.pdf

Many "thank you-s" go to all our branch members who volunteered their Saturday to make this a "Special Day" for all the girls.

Carole Allen
Karen Campbell
Tena Gallagher
Judy Jacobs

Asha Bajaj
Beth Clark
Ann Glover
Pat Kenber
Judy Lauper
Merilyn Milam
Carolyn Priest
Barb Welch

Janis Balaban
Susan DeVoe
Lynne Heyne
Cheryl Kohleriter
Loretta Lewis
Nancy Murray
Gus Slavin

Marian Bliss
Pat Foster
Sandy Hoffman
Diane Larson
Anne Long
Bev Nidick
Marcia Steinhardt

*Dora-Thea Porter and Pat DeRensis
EYH Co-Chairs*



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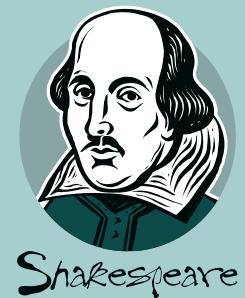
Napa Valley Office
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St. Helena, CA 94574
Tele: (707) 963-0909
Fax: (707) 963-5527

AAUW GOES TO THE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

The Travel Group is planning an auto trip to Ashland, Oregon, and the Shakespeare Festival, October 4 through October 8. Upon arrival we will gather for a welcoming dinner. On Monday we will visit Jacksonville, an old western town a short distance away. Then we will enjoy the wonderful plays, both modern and Shakespearian along with a backstage tour of the theatres, and, if time permits, visit the Southern Oregon University Art Museum before leaving. Our accommodations will be in a downtown hotel, breakfast included, near the theatres and where everyone will be able to stroll the area to shop, dine or visit Lithia Park.

If interested in joining this group, and for more details, please respond to 820-0288 by April 10. A meeting is planned for the following week for sign ups and down payment.

Elaine Reisert, Section Leader



NEWS FROM THE SAN RAMON VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

With California facing an unprecedented \$42 billion deficit and the fact that public education will suffer much of the impact, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District is attempting to take the most comprehensive yet thoughtful approach to reducing its budget by nearly \$9 million for next year. This reflects more than a 4% cut to local schools, which would result in massive layoff notices and have a devastating effect on the quality of education in our community.

Local assistance from the Federal Stimulus Package combined with the potential passage of the Measure C Parcel Tax this Spring (Measure C is a mail-in ballot that will reach voters in early April and must be received by the County by May 5 and requires 2/3 voter approval) would dramatically lessen the impact of the current State budget crisis on our local schools and students.

Please visit the SRVUSD website at www.srvusd.net for more details regarding current and future deficit projections, a list of considerations for budget reductions, and factual information about the parcel tax. We will continue to keep this information current, and keep our community informed as the State provides more clarity into its budget crisis and as our local Board of Education makes budget decisions that affect local education. For more information, contact Terry Koehne at 925-552-2942/tkoehne@srvusd.net.

MEASURE C

Measure C is a ballot measure that asks voters to decide on an annual parcel tax of \$144 to begin July 1, 2009. It would replace the District's existing parcel tax of \$90 per year which expires on June 30, 2009. The following language is built into the measure:

- All funds will continue to go to our local schools to support high-quality education in the classrooms
- Measure C funds cannot go to administrators' salaries
- The district is obligated to provide independent citizen oversight, annual audits and an annual public report
- The measure will expire in 7 years and cannot be renewed without voter approval.
- A tax exemption will be available for persons age 65 and older

To read the full text of Measure C, go to www.cocovote.us/getdocument.aspx?id=178.



GREAT DECISIONS GROUP

Great Decisions members, at our last afternoon meeting, it was decided to continue with our Foreign Affairs Book Group. I had several requests to change the date, so we will be meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. I hope all of you who have expressed an interest in the book group will be able to attend. For our first meeting on Wednesday, April 15 (tax returns should be in by then!), we will discuss the Foreign Policy Association pamphlet, *America & the World: Challenges for the New President*, by blogger Mark Dillen. To obtain the free download of this pamphlet, go to www.fpa.org. Click on BLOGS and enter Mark Dillen in the SEARCH box. Click on the Gtitle to bring up the downloadable pages. We can meet at my house at 3019 Deer Meadow Dr. Please RSVP if you will be able to attend (925) 736-8399, or marthaslavin@sbcglobal.net.

Please come to the meeting with suggestions for further readings in foreign affairs. The books listed here have already been suggested:

Rumors of Our Progress are Greatly Exaggerated: Why Women's Lives Aren't Getting Any Easier by Carolyn Maloney

Getting a Grip: Creativity and Courage in a World Gone Mad by Frances Moore Lappe

Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West by Benazir Bhutto

Hot, Flat and Crowded by Thomas Friedman

Martha (Gus) Slavin, Section Leader

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

Kathleen Stevens



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

- Highlights of proposed AAUW Bylaws, Page 9.
- Public Policy, Page 10.
- Writing Contest, Page 10.

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MARCH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS CALENDAR

- 04/03 9:15 A.M. *Board Meeting.* Tena Gallagher, President. The Shadow Hills Cabana, 1001 El Capitan Drive, Danville.
- 04/08 7:30 P.M. *Evening Bridge.* Contact Barbara Neson.
- 04/10 9:30 A.M. *Monthly Coffee Get-Together.* Bagel St. Café, Livery. Contact Tena Gallagher at 837-0826.
- 04/10 7:30 P.M. *Cinema 1. Duplicity and Two Lovers.* Hosting: Bev Nidick at 828-8993.
- 04/10 7:30 P.M. *Oscar 1. Duplicity.* Hosting: Mary Skelton at 838-2515.
- 04/11 --- *Golf.* For time and place, contact Nadine Rosenzweig at 487-1774 or Maryanne Cucchiaro at 785-4915.
- 04/15 1:00 P.M. *Great Decisions. America & the World: Challenges for the New President,* by blogger Mark Dillen. Hosting: Gus Slavin at 736-8399. See Page 6 for details.
- 04/16 1:00 P.M. *Writer's Workshop.* Hosting: Caroline Sanchez at 736-7940.
- 04/17 7:30 P.M. *Take One (formerly Movie Group #3). Two Lovers.* Hosting: Harlene L'Engle at 968-9576. See Page 2 for details.
- 04/18 8:30 A.M. *Hiking Group.* Meet at Sycamore Park and Ride to carpool to Del Valle Reservoir. Leader: Mary Hanson at 785-1415. See Page 3 for details.
- 04/20 9:30 A.M. *Daytime Bridge.* Contact Mary Kay Anderson.
- 04/23 9:30 A.M. *Daytime Literature. Casa Rossa* by Francesca Marciano. Hosting: Betty Bryant at 735-9108.
- 04/27 9:30 A.M. *Daytime Duplicate Bridge.* Contact Sandy Hoffman at 837-8759.
- 04/27 7:30 P.M. *Evening Literature. Beneath a Marble Sky* by Jon Shors. Hosting: Anne Long at 831-8649.

2008-09 BRANCH PROGRAMS

- 4/21 11:30 A.M. Guest speaker: Penny Warner. The Mercer, Walnut Creek. Luncheon. See Page 1 for details.
- 4/24 - 4/26 --- 88th AAUW—CA Convention, San Diego.
- 5/8 & 5/9 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Annual Garden Tour (EF benefit). See Page 3 for details.
- May 7:30 P.M. Dessert with Budd MacKenzie, Trust in Education (TIE).
- 6/09 5:30 P.M. Installation & Awards Presentations at the home of Mary Mix.
- 6/26 to 6/28 --- National AAUW Convention, St. Louis, MO.

SAVE THE DATE

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

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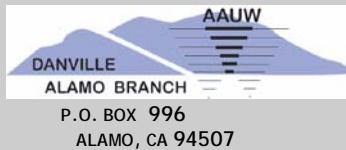
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APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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The Mediterranean Villa is surrounded by hundreds of oak trees and has a grand view of Mt. Diablo.

The Alamo Jungle garden is a slice of tropical splendor.



Horses gaze in pastures on the Park-Like Country Garden.



The California Working Garden features 450 grape-vines, an extensive fruit orchard, vegetable beds and lavender plants.



The Hillside Garden has two streams and thirteen waterfalls.

The Rocks in the Redwoods garden opens onto a view of a pool with a luxuriant waterfall.



*"newly revised bylaws will
be presented for approval
at the 2009 AAUW
Convention at St. Louis."*

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.
(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.



PUBLIC POLICY

Recently, President Obama signed an executive order establishing the White House Council on Women and Girls. The Council's mission will be supported by legislation policies and research but its main goal will be, in his words "to ensure that our daughters and granddaughters have no limits on their achievements and that they have opportunities their mothers and grandmothers never dreamed of." Creation of this council was an idea long supported by AAUW, and is the first step in reestablishing critical women's programs in the executive branch. The Council will be chaired by Valerie Jarrett, Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor.

One month after Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg underwent surgery for pancreatic cancer, she announced plans to remain on the Supreme Court for years to come. Recently, AAUW commended Justice Ginsburg for reading her dissenting opinion on the 2007 Ledbetter v Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company case from the bench. She criticized the majority for their opinions undermining women's rights, and said that it was Congress's job to fix this unfair ruling that brought about the Ledbetter lawsuit. Congress later did, and President Obama signed it into law.

The High School Sports Information Collection Act (S 471) was introduced recently to the Senate by Senators Patty Murray and Olympia Snowe. This act would increase clarity to the gender ratios on high school sports teams by requiring schools to report those statistics. Right now, high schools are not required to do this, which makes monitoring compliance with Title IX regulations difficult. While girls comprise half of the high school population, they receive only 41 percent of sports opportunities. None of the states gives opportunities to girls in proportion to their enrollment numbers. Requiring high schools to provide these statistics, as colleges must, will, in the end, help girls in sports maintain their rightful place, and gain more opportunities.

In a recent address, President Obama laid out his strategy for the future of the American education system. Among the highlights of this strategy were formulating a viable plan to raise the quality of education for pre-K programs, promising to support effective states with an Early Learning Challenge Grant, creating more competitive curriculum standards, preparing and rewarding fine teachers, increasing the number of charter schools, and making access to higher education a reality for all Americans. The president also promised to work with Congress later this year on the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. AAUW continues to support the ideals behind the No Child Left Behind Act; however, the federal government must provide the commitment and resources necessary to ensure that its promises are realized for our schools and our children. The president also promised to make higher education more accessible by simplifying federal financial aid forms, increasing Pell grants, and making permanent the American Opportunity Tax Credit.

Cynthia Savell, Public Policy

WRITING CONTEST

Writer Advice's Fourth Annual Flash Prose Contest seeks flash fiction, memoir, and creative non-fiction that mesmerizes the reader in 750 words or less. DEADLINE: April 15, 2009. Entry fee: \$10 per submission. First prize: \$150. Last year's prize winners will judge. Complete guidelines, mailing address and prizes at www.writeradvice.com.

