



N.E.W.S.

Now/Events/Women/Success
Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education,
philanthropy and research

Susan Bonilla is featured speaker at November meeting



November 20, 2013

7 PM

Brookview Clubhouse

1201 Monument Blvd., Concord

14th District Assembly member Susan Bonilla will talk about important education programs and their impact on K-12 and community college education in California going forward.

Ms. Bonilla is chair of the Assembly Select Committee on *Increasing the Integration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in Education in California K-14* as well as the Assembly Business, Professions, and Consumer Protection Committee. She has represented Central Contra Costa County, including Pleasant Hill, Martinez and Concord, since 2010.

She will speak about the STEM program as well as the Common Core curriculum program now being instituted in state schools. She also counts as her proudest accomplishments in the legislature the saving of transitional kindergarten from budget cuts and the crafting, with the Governor, of the Local Control Funding Formula giving local districts more freedom in allocating state funds among other legislation to improve education in California.

In Support of Tech Trek 2014



November 9th, 2013

8pm

This girl-loves-ghoul, rock and roll, Off-Broadway musical is set in the atomic 1950's at Enrico Fermi High. Pretty senior Toffee has fallen for the class bad boy, Jonny, who spells his name without the customary "h". Directed by Lisa Drummond

\$30/ticket – check made out to PH-MTZ AAUW

(Please indicate if you qualify for a senior ticket- we get a break on the cost!)

RSVP to Trinka March 372-8420 or DrTrinks@sbcglobal.net by 11/5 so I can get a block of tickets together.

Remember- if you cannot make the show and want to support the program- we would be happy to take your checks! If you just want to donate and want a tax deduction the check is to be written to Tech Trek SPF.



Presidential Postings

Co-Presidents Kit Hein & Janice Walker

Two days to make us proud. I wish you could have all been there with us. Sunday, October 20th, was the Northern California AAUW Fund Fall Luncheon at Crow Canyon Country Club. This is a chance for all members to meet some of the outstanding women in our area who have received AAUW fellowships and grants this year. And they never disappoint. Engineering, community service, environmental studies, even film production are some of the areas of study that these women are pursuing. You can read more and see a picture of the 10 we heard from in Marlene Maksel's *Funds* article later in the N.E.W.S.

The very next day I was invited, as your branch Co-President, to participate in a luncheon sponsored by AAUW national and hosted by Catherine Heffernan, Manager, Major and Planned Giving; Molly Lam, Program Specialist for LAF; and Mark Hopkins, Chief Strategy Officer. We heard about how we can provide for long term giving to AAUW Funds through the Legacy Circle. We heard about Molly's plans to bring AAUW into the 21st Century using collaborations with like-minded organizations, social media, and her legal expertise to bring a broader view of the legal landscape regarding our issues. (More on that in her own words later in the N.E.W.S.) And Mark charmed us with his idea of "world domination" by AAUW. In a good way, of course, with AAUW being a world-wide influence in equity for women and girls.

Reaching beyond our branch events is an important part of being a member of Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW. We work so hard to provide the funds for AAUW fellowship winners. We pay dues to a national organization that is known for its advocacy, education, philanthropy and research on behalf of equity for women and girls. Please, look for coming events in January (IBC sponsored community event) and April (State convention in Los Angeles) and even June, 2015 (National convention, San Diego) to see how planning now will help you share in the amazing entity that is AAUW.

Closer to home, of course, we must thank Alana MacDonald and her tireless committee for yet another very successful Festa. And those of us who were lucky enough to visit the Galindo House had a real treat. We thank PH-MTZ AAUW member Vivian Boyd for sharing her passion for local history.

It is also time to stand up and be counted for your branch. The nominating committee is being formed, to be voted on at the November meeting. Two members will come from the board and three from the general membership. There are also two alternates, one from each body. This committee will

begin meeting in January, under the direction of Parliamentarian Reba Siero, and will have a slate of officers to be published in the NEWS in March and voted on at the April meeting. Self nomination is encouraged. Call or email Reba 228-8211 or rebasiero@yahoo.com

See you at Brookview on Nov. 20.

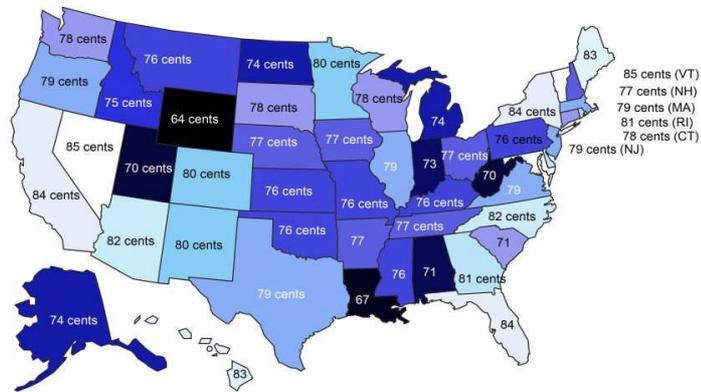
BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, Nov. 13, 2013
Kit Hein's Home
7PM

Board Notes – 9 Oct 2013

- ✓ Treasurers have developed a Deposit and Reimbursement Request form, available on the branch website, an optional opportunity for members who spend their own money on behalf of branch activities
- ✓ The board positions of Public Policy, Conferences and Conventions, and Winter Social are still vacant
- ✓ Ideas and discussions regarding raising more money for local scholarships and Tech Trek
- ✓ Possibilities of giving classes in Women's Advocacy and the national Wage Project are being explored

Start \$mart

Elena Noble No California Regional Field Mgr. Start Smart classes are getting a slow start this year primarily because of the cuts in education and the cost of the program. But looking at the map below, you can see why working women need to be educated on salary negotiation skills. The surprising statistic on this map is where the highest, not equal, highest paid salaries are. Nevada and Vermont top the list with women being paid 85 cents on the dollar that men are paid for doing the same job. Ask your daughters and granddaughters, "Did you negotiate your wage with your employer?"



Gender Pay Gap: How Do Women's Earnings Stack Up?
For every dollar men earn, women take home cents. It's worst in Wyoming, best (surprise!) in the City of Sin. [View by cents on the dollar, the gender pay gap of the 50 states in 2012.](#)

INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS



GRAND SLAMMERS BRIDGE

All welcome. **Nov. 11, 12:30 pm** at Marlene DeLaurenti's. Call or e-mail if you would like to join us. 934-4171 mdl@astound.net \$3.00 donation, Local Scholarships



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on

Wednesday, November 6th, 10 am, at Vicki Anderle's. We will be discussing Daoud Hari's *The Translator: A Tribesman's Memoir of Darfur*. This is a harrowing tale about a survivor of the atrocities in the Sudan and how he later risks his life again to help others. In December, we will be discussing *Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier. Please join us for great discussions!



**** WALKING WOMEN** will be walking on

November 12th and 26th ~ Tuesday mornings at 9 am. On the 12th, we will meet on Oak Park Blvd. and walk south on the Canal Trail. On the 26th, we will meet at the same location and walk north on the Canal Trail. Please call, or email, Marlene Maksel, if you are planning to be there so we won't go off without you!!!



**** MATINEE IDLE** will have a change of

dates because of the upcoming holidays. We will combine November and December and go to the movies on **Thursday, December 5th**. We usually attend a matinee at a local theatre. Call Marlene (689-5439), if you are planning to attend, or if you have any suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the movie after over coffee or other liquid refreshment.



**** CULTURAL CONNECTION** will not meet

in November or December, as these are very busy months for everyone. In January, we will try to take a tour to the California Museum in Sacramento for the "Ray Eames: A Century of Modern Design" exhibit. Date, times, transportation info will come later.



**** LUNCHIN' LADIES** will have lunch on **Thursday, November 21st, 1 pm**, at Bistro at the Park, Park Hotel in Lafayette. It is newly renovated, so we'll check it out. If you have a restaurant you would like to try, please let Marlene know ~ marlene@maksiel.us



**** IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet

November 13th, 10 am, at Marti Martin's. We hope to have a published author to talk with us about writing. The topic will be to write a short fiction mystery story. Please come! We'll just be enjoying a little coffee and tea. Hope you read Marti's story about how she came to In Indelible Ink and it will have inspired you to come, too!



**** EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, November 25th, 7 pm, at Diane Peterson's. Our book for discussion is *The Light Between the Oceans* by M. L. Stedman. The story is about an Australian lighthouse keeper and his wife and how their remote lives become the source of a riveting plot.

Save the Date: Wednesday, December 11

Annual Layette Shower

10 a.m. at Margi Alkire's

The In Indelible Ink interest group has again agreed to host the Branch annual layette. All baby items are welcome: purchased or hand-made, new or gently used. Our Branch assists the County with this project which provides layettes for disadvantaged women.

Membership Matters

Gayle Miner – Membership VP

(an article sent from national AAUW. See also Elena Noble's article on page 2)

We're Mad about Unfair Pay, and We're Not Taking It Anymore!

Recently, America learned that women are [still paid 23 cents less](#) than men are — the same pay gap we were facing a decade ago. Check out [your state's rank](#) in the 2012 census data. Use this information as a springboard to engage in conversation with friends, colleagues, and *potential AAUW members*. You can also use your social media outlets to share AAUW messaging on the issue of unequal pay. Making connections through critical issues is a great recruitment and retention tool, helping us all build a community that empowers women and girls. Be a membership ambassador: Engage new and potential members so that we create a lasting AAUW legacy.

PLEASE WELCOME:

Celeste Q. Graham

1201 Monument Blvd. # 32

Concord, CA 94520

Home 925-676-7525 Cell 925-519-8171

Celeste holds a BA from UC Berkeley in Philosophy and Comparative Religion, an MAT from USF in Theology / Judaics and an MA from CSU Hayward in English, and an adult education credential to teach English As A Second Language. Celeste is interested in 18th Century antiques, Haviland china, and travel. She is also a member of Concord AAUW.

Susan Lawson

1201 Monument Blvd. #16

Concord, CA 94523

Cell: (925) 285-4430

Email: susanelawson@comcast.net

Susan holds a BA in Literature from the University of Iowa and a Lifetime Community College Credential. She is interested in Walking Women and Marathon Bridge.

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS:

Dana Matthews

Cell Number: (925)708-1723

Education Information:

University of S.F BA History/ Elem. Ed. Credential
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Priscilla Tudor

email: ptudorlcsw@sbcglobal.net

home phone: 798-4095

Maxine Walden

1549 Oakmont #11

Walnut Creek CA 94595

PUBLIC POLICY

(*excerpts submitted by Sue Miller, aauw-ca Public Policy Chair*)

The 2013 California Legislative year is over and the Governor has acted on all legislation that reached his desk. The results are in. Of the more than 2,500 pieces of legislation introduced in 2013, AAUW-CA's Public Policy Committee reviewed the bills most relevant to AAUW-CA priorities and took positions on over forty bills. Half of our 34 "support" bills made it to the Governor's desk. Two bills were vetoed, Of the remaining fifteen that were signed, California is yet again on the forefront of national policy. AB 154 (Atkins) – expanding early abortion access by allowing trained nurse practitioners, physician assistants and certified nurse midwives to provide these services, and SB 138 (Hernandez) providing confidentiality when using health insurance for sensitive services. Other signed bills included adding financial literacy to the secondary education curriculum and expanding who is covered for paid family leave when providing care for family members.

To check on the status of bills, and learn more details about the bills that make up our Legislative Agenda, look at the AAUW California online bill tracking system. <http://www.aauw-ca.org>
Click: Public Policy>Bill tracking

AAUW FUNDS

Marlene Maksel & Laurel Gaiser, Co-VPs

WHAT IS NCCWSL??

The acronym stands for National Conference for College Women Student Leaders and is more commonly known as "Nickwhistle."

This National Conference is held every May/June on the University of Maryland campus in College Park, Maryland. Its purpose is to provide a transforming experience for attendees so they can improve their home campuses and



communities. The 2½ - day conference addresses the needs of current and aspiring women student

leaders. It enhances the leadership opportunities already available to the students on their campuses.

It also inspires these students to continue in their leadership roles after graduation. Besides career development, the attendees recognize the need for more women to lead in our governments ~ local, statewide and nationally.

The highlight of the conference is the Women of Distinction Recipients awards. At the 2013 conference one of the recipients was Donna Shalala, former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.

AAUW has been co-sponsoring this program through your contributions to the Leadership Programs Fund, #4339 ~ AAUW Funds.



THANK YOU DONORS TO AAUW FUNDS!!

As of 19 October, you have generously donated \$2,210 to AAUW Funds! You have chosen various programs under the umbrella of Funds and your checks have been transmitted to our national office. Remember! Your gift is fully tax deductible. Thank you all for supporting educational opportunities for women and girls; for supporting those involved in legal cases against employers; for leadership training for women and girls; and for research through the Eleanor Roosevelt fund. Your gifts will be used well.



NO. CALIFORNIA FELLOW AND GRANT RECIPIENTS LUNCHEON

On Sunday, 20 October, more than 80 AAUW members and guests enjoyed a delicious lunch and heard inspiring stories about women continuing their studies, thanks to your donations to AAUW Funds.

Maha Abuelmagd is presently working on an advanced degree at San Jose State. She is originally from Egypt and plans to pursue a career in education. She is inspired to be a teacher and has been studying teachers in rural areas where one teacher might have multiple classes under her purview.

Simone Fobl is from Cameroon and is studying at Stanford for an advanced degree in Environmental Engineering. As a child, she followed her mother around as she gave medicine to families to combat bacterial diseases. Simone decided to go the source of the bacteria and learn how to provide clean water as one way of controlling it.

These are just two of the stories heard from the guest speakers. There were 10 in all, and each was very grateful to AAUW for their fellowship/grant which enabled them to devote their time entirely to their studies and projects without worrying about part-time jobs/babysitting/transportation costs, etc. YOU do make a difference!



Muriel Fry, Kit Hein, Janice Walker and Marlene Maksel help at the AAUW Funds luncheon.

COMMUNITY

Diane Peterson

PLEASANT HILL

Thurs., Nov. 21

Tree of Lights Ceremony sponsored by Hospice of the East Bay, 5:30 PM, at the Oak tree on Gregory Lane near Cleveland Road, reception immediately following at the Pleasant Hill Teen Center at 147 Gregory Lane,

www.PHHospiceTree.com



MARTINEZ

Sat., Nov. 16 - 5 PM

Tree of Lights Ceremony sponsored by Hospice of the East Bay at Morello Ave. north of Arnold Drive, www.MartinezHospiceTree.com

Tues., Nov. 19 - 6:30 PM

Movie screening "In Search of John Muir" documentary by Anthony Garvin who will speak about his experience following in Muir's footsteps, Free, at the Martinez Library, call 387-5385

CONTRA COSTA

Sat., Nov. 9 - 10:30am – 12:30pm

Contra Costa Water: Now and Forever?

Get the truth about our water supply. Panel discussion with Mary Nejedly Piepho, Contra Costa County Supervisor Dist. 3, Marguerite Patil, Contra Costa Water District Special Assistant to General Manager, Angela Lowrey, Delta Diablo Sanitation Public Information Manager, Free, Sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Contra Costa Water District, 1331 Concord Ave., Concord



LOCAL AUTHOR SPEAKING



Sunday, Nov 10
5:30PM

PH/MTZ AAUW members and friends are invited to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church for potluck dinner and presentation by local author Nona Mock Wyman. She wrote CHOPSTICK CHILDHOOD IN A TOWN OF SILVER SPOONS and BAMBOO WOMEN. She spent her childhood in the Presbyterian Home for Chinese Girls in Los Gatos, and has one of the oldest stores in Walnut Creek. If you prefer, you can come at 6:30 just for the program. Call Gayle Garrison for more details 798-7528

NEIGHBORING BRANCH PROGRAM

IS THE AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE ACT REALLY AFFORDABLE?

Tuesday, November 19
9:15 AM



Serbian Cultural Center,
1700 School Street, Moraga

Alison McKenzie, having served as an Administrative Law Judge in Social Services for the State of California, knows firsthand the "ins and outs" of many of the state's publicly funded service programs, including Home Supportive Services, CalFresh (aka Food Stamps), Foster Care, and Aid to Adoptive Children. Although newly retired, Alison continues to be involved with administrative hearings on a part time basis and, because of her familiarity with Medi Cal eligibility, has been recruited by the CA State Department to train county leaders about the Affordable Health Care Act (ACA) and its implications.

Alison will highlight the ACA provisions:

"What it is, who it covers and how it works". Her presentation applies to a broad audience of all ages and includes many of our children who may find themselves in serious need of health coverage at some point in the future.

Sponsored by the Lafayette-Orinda-Moraga (LOM) branch of AAUW. For more information contact communication-publicity@aauwoml.org.



Local Scholarship Silent Auction at the Festa



Thank you so much to those members who donated items, many hand/homemade, for the Local Scholarship Silent Auction at the Festa. Here are the names of the members who donated, along with the lucky winners.

Claudia Bass' green leaf Japanese maple tree was won by **Sarah Joy Haynes**.

Marilyn Thelen bid the highest on **Reba Siero's** hand painted shawl.

Suzanne Mesetz's three baby quilts were won by **Barbara Sharman, Dana Matthews, and Claudia Bass**.

Mary Hanlon was the happy recipient of two items: the Wine and Cheese Basket donated by **Diane Peterson** and also the Breakfast basket donated by **Muriel Fry, Gayle Garrison, Joy Barden, and Sherrie Moore**.

Marlene De Laurenti won **Bea Ball's** beautiful beaded bracelet.

Celeste Graham was delighted to win the wool scarf from the metropolitan museum of art in NY, donated by **Suzanne Mesetz**.

The lucky winner of **Marlowe Boyd's** photograph, donated by **Vivian Boyd**, was **Sherrie Moore**.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, we collected \$485. We appreciate you supporting Local Scholarships.

Sherrie Moore, Shelley Jacobson, and Joy Barden



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill-Martinez branch. Check out the pictures from our Festa Italiana on the Community Action Page. Also information about the Marilyn Tubbs Scholarship recipient can be found on the About Us Page.

New on the website – find our new branch Deposit/Reimbursement Request Form on the About Us Page, available also from our treasurers, Kathy Heath and Jennifer Apkarian. Just go to <http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org> for all of this and more. Forward any questions or comments that you may have to the webmaster, located on the About Us page.

Sherrie Moore, webmaster

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

The October issue of *LAF Express* has arrived!

You'll notice that this month's LAF Express (INSERTED THIS MONTH FOR YOU ON THE NEXT PAGE) is a little different than previous issues. We would like to begin offering you a broader view of the legal landscape beyond LAF by including information on important cases, legislation, resources, and events. To that end, what are you interested in reading? Are you interested in learning about important cases from around the country? Would you like to learn more about the court system generally? Do you have specific questions about how a lawsuit proceeds through the courts? Please send me your suggestions and questions—we're here to serve you! We won't be able to include all suggestions or answer all questions, but we want to offer you the information you find most useful.

Happy October!

Sincerely,
Mollie Lam, LAF Program Manager
lamm@aauw.org

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER
January 16, 2014

Look for full details in the next Newsletter

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Katrinka March D.V.M.
E. Carl Foster D.V.M.
Karen Shore B.V.M.S.



October 2013

AAUW Mourns the Passing of Jacqueline Livingston, One of the Cornell 11

In 1981, a group of women from Cornell University asked AAUW for help in their discrimination lawsuit against Cornell. The group claimed that Cornell had violated anti-discrimination laws by denying them tenure in favor of less-qualified candidates. Heeding the call to support gender equality, AAUW stepped forward to help, and the Legal Advocacy Fund was born. The group eventually won a settlement from Cornell, and the women became known as the Cornell 11. One of those women was artist and professor Jacqueline Louise Barrett Livingston Brisette. Livingston died this past June. We celebrate her work as an artist and an activist, and we honor her legacy through LAF's ongoing pursuit of equality. Learn more from AAUW Archivist Suzanne Gould's fascinating profile of the Cornell 11, available [on our website](#).

Do You Know Your Rights?

What would you do if you faced discrimination or harassment? Legal advocacy begins with workers and students who know their rights in the workplace and on campus. The LAF section of the [AAUW website](#) offers a wealth of easy-to-understand information about your legal rights. Explore our new LAF [Employee Rights and Information Center](#) through the [Know Your Rights at Work](#) resource page, and learn about the laws that govern your rights in the workplace. Go to [Know Your Rights on Campus](#) to learn about your rights as a student, student athlete, or faculty member. You can also find information about the process of filing a discrimination complaint and where to go for legal assistance. AAUW members can be the first line of defense to protect workers and students from discrimination. As parents, friends, co-workers, and teachers, we can educate others about their rights, their responsibilities, and the ways LAF can help. Know your rights!

Federal Circuit Rules in Favor of Veterans Seeking Disability Benefits after Sexual Assaults

In an encouraging step for survivors of military sexual assault, a federal appeals court recently ruled that a veteran's failure to report a sexual assault is not evidence that the assault did not occur. In *AZ v. Shinseki* and *AY v. Shinseki*, two veterans sought disability benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder that they said stemmed from sexual assaults they suffered while on active duty. Because the veterans did not file complaints at the time the alleged assaults occurred, their service records did not contain any mention of the assaults. Relying on the veterans' failure to report as evidence that the assaults never occurred, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims denied disability benefits.

On appeal, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that the "VA may not treat a claimant's failure to report an alleged sexual assault to military authorities as pertinent evidence that the sexual assault did not occur." The court recognized that "many service members fear that the act of reporting a rape to military authorities will subject them to personal and professional reprisals." While other courts are not required to follow it, the ruling is promising. The Federal Circuit's ruling recognizes the real barriers to justice faced by survivors of military sexual assault. AAUW is working to break down those barriers by supporting the lawsuits of survivors and supporting legislation to improve the military's handling of sexual assaults. [Join us!](#)

Please consider making a [tax-deductible donation to LAF](#) to help balance the scales of justice for women.

November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	 MORNING BOOKS	7	8	9  TECH TREK Zombie Prom
10 Local Author at St. Andrews	 GRAND SLAMMERS	12  WALKING WOMEN	13  IN INDELIBLE INK <i>BOARD MTNG.</i>	14	15	16 MTZ. Tree Lighting
17	18	19 MTZ. "In Search of John Muir"	20 SUSAN BONILLA - EDUCATION	21  LUNCHIN' LADIES PH Tree Lighting	22	23
24	25  EVENING BOOKS	26  WALKING WOMEN	27	28	29	30

SAVE THE DATE: DEC. 5-MATINEE IDLE; DEC. 11- LAYETTE SHOWER; JAN. 16 – SOUP SUPPER

