

## April 2011 – Celebrate Success!

### Join in the Annual AAUW Funds Potluck Luncheon!

Saturday, April 30, 2011, from 11:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 14103 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga

**BRING:** Your favorite gourmet salad, tasty appetizer or interesting cold dish. The branch will furnish rolls, coffee, tea and dessert.

We've worked all year raising money to provide educational opportunities for women and girls. Now it's time to meet some of the women who benefit from our efforts. *Program details are listed below:*

- Tech Trek Scholarship Students, introduced by Nancy Hobbs
- Local Scholarship Recipients, introduced by Virginia Turner
- 2010 Named Gift Honorees, introduced by Kathy Cusick
- Election of Branch Officers, introduced by Lavonne Marafino
- Our featured speaker is Meredith May, recipient of a AAUW California grant. She is using the grant to pursue an MFA in creative nonfiction and to write her memoir. She is a woman of many diverse talents and interests. I know you will enjoy her talk!



See you there – Geri Williams, VP AAUW FUNDS and Kathy Cusick, co-VP AAUW FUNDS

## English Tea in April . . .



Saturday, April 9, 2011  
2:00 - 4:00

*Doors open at 1:00 for auction viewing;  
Tea served at 2:00*

Saratoga Community Center  
19665 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga

Entertainment by  
**THE ELBON SINGERS**

*The Homeless Committee has announced that this will be the last English Tea. See page 3.*

# Presidential Message

As we watch the sudden big changes in the world, I thought I would take a minute to share my experiences living overseas during the 1960s. I have had the opportunity to live in many countries around the world: England, Aruba, Lebanon, Mexico, Switzerland, and New Zealand. It wasn't the "Haight Ashbury" but it was high adventure.

England was my first home overseas. Yes, it is as cold and wet as shown on those PBS shows and the sunny days in the garden were few and far between. I lived in East Anglia on Honey Dew Lane in Dove Cottage. I found village life suited me very well. London was but a train ride away and it kept me awestruck for most of the year I lived there. I was particularly interested in the mummies at the British Museum and visited them often. Living in England felt like living with distant relatives who you weren't too comfortable with but were fascinated by. I caught a cold in September and got over it in May.

I next moved to Aruba which was quite a change. It only rained twice while I was there. The temperature stayed between 78° and 82° and from the coast we could see Venezuela. The island itself was 60 miles long, and had several villages, the world's largest commercial port and a Casino at the southern end. There was little vegetation — it was a coral rock making for fabulous scuba diving. This was before satellites so we read month old *New York Times* and saw an occasional James Bond movie. One had plenty of time for power tanning and golf. The money was really good and I learned to fly. I flew often to South America and the Caribbean renting a little airplane from the local flying club.

From there I went to Lebanon where I attended the American University of



Beirut and later taught at the American Community School. The money was not so good but the opportunities to explore the holy land and travel throughout the Middle East were wonderful. To walk three miles and see Petra in front of you. To follow the route that Christ walked that awful Friday, to put your hand in the Jordan River, to swim in the Black Sea, and to know that the biblical characters lived there before you was an intensely emotional experience for a Christian girl from Southern Indiana.

During the time I lived in the Middle East I was introduced to many fine and scholarly minds and to many people whose thoughts were different from my own. I am struck by the current situation unfolding before our eyes. The people in the Middle East are facing a big struggle and change seems to be happening very rapidly. I'm hopeful that their desire for more freedoms and individual rights will take hold and change their futures. The people of Egypt stood up for many freedoms that we take for granted – the freedom to speak openly and to chose our beliefs.

I will close this "walk down memory lane" and get back to my life as usual. But I will be watching the developments with interest and hope.

–Mary Surginer

# Seeking-President and President-Elect for 2011-12

## We Need Your Help!

Can you help the branch at this critical time? This organization is filled with incredible and dynamic women who have a great deal to offer and the skills and drive to make a difference. Can you help the branch and all of us to move forward as a vital and growing organization? Please think about becoming either the President or the President Elect for this coming year.

The committee is proposing that we have two people fill each of these leadership positions. Co-Presidents can be quite successful as we have seen in other branches here in our valley and with our own branch in the past. Co-President Elects will learn the "ropes" together and be ready to grow into the Presidential position next year. Naturally, if one person wants either job, we would love to hear from her.

The nominating committee thanks the members who have agreed to fill all of the other slots as elected officers. Without your help and dedication to the branch we could not continue to operate and provide the support and services needed to move the mission of the AAUW forward..

Please fill free to contact any of the members of the nominating committee with your suggestions.

### Committee members:

- Lavonne Marafino, Chair .. 867-1964
- Terri Raynaud ..... 356-0075
- Marlene Duffin ..... 997-7528
- Sarah Model ..... 354-7819
- Gail Pedersen ..... 377-6895

## Tea Time is Fast Approaching!

### Benefiting Homeless

Saturday, April 9, 2011

Saratoga Community Center, 19665 Allendale Ave., Saratoga  
 1:00 pm doors open | 2:00 – 4:00 pm Tea & Program  
 \$35 (Tax deductible, Make check payable to ISPF)

*“I believe that democracy can survive if volunteering does.”*

–Harriet Naylor

**TEA TIME** – *At the Homeless Women and Children Committee meeting this week it was decided that this year’s tea will be our last.*

The first tea was in the recreation room at the mobile home park next to the Winchester Mystery house with 100 brave ladies who came to support our nascent work with the homeless. They watched a program of incredible flower arranging, as an example, the three huge bunches of peach parrot tulips placed in a large silky silver piece of driftwood. How pleased we were with our success and inspired to get going, and get bigger. And we did.

So Ladies, tickets are on sale and going fast. We were sold out last year with a waiting list – don’t delay. Contact Patty Weber, 264-2601.

We are asking for donations to the silent auction, restaurant gift certificates, bottles of wine and your unworn jewelry. Contact JoAn Lambert, 867-6237.



## Balanced Approach – Social Security

Last week, Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor, offered his solution to resolve concerns about the future solvency of Social Security. Currently, the Social Security payroll tax only applies to earnings up to particular ceiling. Reich’s plan calls for raising that ceiling, from \$106,800 to \$180,000. This would restore the 1983 Greenspan commission’s plan to apply the payroll tax to 90 percent of income covered by Social Security.

Such a solution is a refreshing shift from the barrage of recent proposals to raise the Social Security retirement age, which would *disproportionately harm women* who receive less pay and live longer on average than men. *AAUW believes* that, while not sufficient, social security is vital to women’s economic security.

–Lavonne Marafino

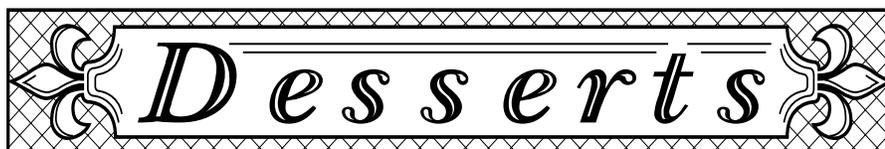


### Seeking Recipe Submissions

Fundraising Cookbook

**Do you have any delicious, easy, and cost effective recipes to share?** We are seeking recipes for appetizers and desserts for our fundraising Cookbook. These recipes are the “Winners” that we make for family, friends & take to potlucks. *“I know that I want to share a recipe when it disappears whenever I take it to a function.”* –Lavonne Marafino.

Email or send the recipe(s) to Lavonne Marafino and Gail Pedersen for inclusion in *Beginning and Ending Cookbook* that we are putting together.



## Successful March Meeting at Current Interests Blog

We had a large turnout at our March meeting.

Joan Kjemtrup told us all about her trip to Chile and Argentina.

Sarah mentioned that Audry Lynch had spoken to the Foothill Club about her new book comparing the lives of James Dean and John Steinbeck and we had a discussion with Audry about her book.

We also had some good discussions about current events.

In April, Joyce Steinfeld, a local artist who lives in Los Gatos, will tell us about her art. Joyce designs and makes "Art to Wear" jewelry which she sells to high end boutiques throughout the states. She uses semi-precious gemstones with brass and silver metal shapes. Her jewelry pieces are sculptures in miniature.

She also makes sculptures of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet and recently has had a show at the Jewish Community Center.

Come to our April meeting and meet Joyce as well as enjoy a delicious lunch at the Florentine Trattoria Restaurant.

In addition to hearing about Joyce's work, we will discuss other topics.

–Sarah Model




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*"Find a need and fill it."*

–Ruth Stafford Peale

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**Recipe**

### Jill Biden's "Amazing" Chocolate Cake

This cake has been Joe Biden and the entire Biden Family's favorite chocolate cake for many years. This cake recipe is truly "amazing" because the cake base is divided in half – the first half is used to make the cake and the second half becomes the icing for the cake.

Makes: One - 9" layer cake

1 pkg (8 oz) cream cheese, room temperature  
 2 pounds powdered sugar  
 1 tsp vanilla extract  
 1/2 cup butter, room temperature  
 5 squares unsweetened chocolate, melted  
 1/2 cup milk, room temperature  
  
 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
 1/3 cup butter, softened  
 4 large eggs  
 1 1/2 cups milk  
 1 tsp. baking powder  
 1 tsp baking soda  
 Dash of salt

1. Mix the first 6 ingredients together until smooth. Divide this mixture in half. One half will be your icing. Set aside.
2. To the other half: add the remaining ingredients. Grease two 9-inch round layer pans. Divide the batter evenly between the two layer pans.
3. Bake in a preheat oven at 350°F. for 30 to 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.. Cool 10 minutes in pan. Invert the layers onto a wire cooling rack and cool completely. When cooled, use the icing you set aside to frost the cake.

–Recipe is from *Capital Hill Cook*, by Linda Bauer

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## Rally to the Defense of the War on Women's Health

### Be Aware and Prepare to Act.

There's no other way to put it: The House GOP is waging an all-out war on women's health, and we must stop them in the U.S. Senate.

The House Republicans passed an outrageous "budget" bill that completely defunds Title X — which provides cancer screenings, HIV testing, and family planning to low-income women.

And it gets worse: They also voted to eliminate all funding for Planned Parenthood, thereby denying health care to millions of women across the country.

Let me be clear: These cuts have nothing to do with reducing the deficit. They are about enacting an extreme political agenda that would take away health care from millions of women, leading to more untreated cancers and more unintended pregnancies.

We must send a message that their extremist agenda won't fly in the U.S. Senate — not on our watch. When this budget comes to the floor this week, we must stand up and defeat it.

You've already joined with over 50,000 other Americans to oppose these extreme measures, and I'm so grateful for your support. But I need you to make sure your friends know what's at stake. Forward this message and urge your friends & family to stand with us in opposing these egregious attacks on women's health by signing our petition today!

First, House Republicans started with H.R. 3, a bill that would raise taxes on families and businesses that purchase insurance covering a full range of reproductive health care.

Now they've turned to the budget to enact their extremist agenda:

- How can they justify eliminating all funds for Title X, which provides health care services for 4.7 million women nationwide and prevents almost 1 million unintended pregnancies a year?
- How can they justify defunding Planned Parenthood, an organization that provides 720,000 breast exams and 730,000 pap tests annually, tests that literally save the lives of American women?
- How can they justify taking away basic health care from millions of women?

### They can't — and we can't let it happen.

I need your help, now more than ever, to stop the House GOP's war on women's health.

Make sure to forward this message to your friends today — and urge them to stand up to House Republicans' all-out war on women's health by signing our petition now!

We're going to have to stand up, again and again, to stop House Republicans from taking away the basic health care services women and their families need and deserve. That's why we must defeat their budget this week, and continue to speak out, loudly and clearly, until we stop them.

I had sincerely hoped we'd never be debating something as fundamental as women's health again.

### But we are. And we can't lose.

Thank you for joining me and fighting back against the House GOP's all-out war on women's health.

—Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senator



*"Kindness, like a boomerang, always returns."*

—Anonymous

## No to Extending D. C. Vouchers

Just weeks into the 112th Congress, Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) has introduced a bill (S. 206) which would reauthorize and expand the failed D.C. school vouchers program which Congress had agreed to end last year. Voucher schemes divert public money away from public schools, undermining the American promise of a quality education for every student. At a time when public schools face budget shortages, overcrowded classrooms, and increased accountability, taxpayer dollars should be spent to fuel the improvement of schools that educate 90 percent of America's students.

**AAUW stands firmly by the belief that we should provide an excellent education for all children, not private school vouchers for a few.**

**Urge your Senator to oppose and not co-sponsor S. 206, the bill that would extend and expand the problematic, unsuccessful DC school voucher program.**

**Take Action!**

## Summary – AAUW California’s Budget Recommendations Sent to Governor Brown

Recently, members throughout California responded to a call from AAUW CA to form study groups on California state budget issues. Budget Study participants confirmed their individual observations that California’s budget problems, ongoing for decades, have resulted in deterioration in the quality of life in California.

AAUW California recognizes that the budget deficit requires that cuts must be made. However, the budget deficit must be addressed with a combination of spending reductions, new revenues, and reform in many areas of government. AAUW CA supports Governor Brown’s focus on multiple actions to achieve a balanced budget, not just cuts to programs and services.

### Governor’s Proposed 2011 – 2012 Budget:

AAUW urges a reasoned approach to the budget deficit that takes into account the following points:

- Protect Education from further reductions.
- Maintain a humane safety net for children, elderly, sick and disabled.
- Assess the options for tax and fee increases.
- Eliminate programs where it can be determined they are not needed.
- Combine or merge programs/offices that are duplicative.

AAUW California and nationwide advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Since AAUW’s founding more than 130 years ago, its college-educated members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day – educational, social, economic, and

political. Commitment to its mission is reflected in all aspects of AAUW’s work.

AAUW CA through its member-approved Public Policy Priorities program promotes its Mission through advocacy and education at the local community level. Among its priorities, these were found to be most negatively impacted by the 2010-2011 state budget:

- Equitable funding for quality public education in preschool through secondary schools, which supports all students of any culture, race, ethnicity, special needs or sexual orientation.
- Education at the college level is becoming unaffordable for low income persons, due to tuition increases.
- Pay equity for women, particularly low-income women who are facing cuts in CalWORKS, child care, and increased tuition in California colleges.
- Access to health care and an expansion of patient health rights
- The “*safety net*” of services for low-income women and children, the elderly, sick and disabled is being seriously eroded through budget cuts.

Members agree that the current budget process is detrimental to the overall health of the state. Budget delays cause hardship and the state’s financial management credibility is damaged, affecting interest and credit ratings and raise growing concern about the state’s ability to meet its financial obligations. The state budget can no longer be addressed solely through spending cuts, borrowing, and shifting or transfer of funds. The result of AAUW’s Budget Study projects throughout California

is a call for reforms in the budget process and funding.

AAUW California recognizes that the budget deficit requires that cuts must be made. However, of concern is that the proposed spending reductions would have a disproportionate impact on health and human services programs. Over half (52.8 percent) the combined total of 2010-11 and 2011-12 spending reductions affect health and human services programs, even though these programs accounted for 30.4 percent of budgeted 2010-11 General Fund spending. The impact of these cuts will be disastrous for the state’s most vulnerable citizens.



*AAUW CA has an amazing group of women who brought their experience, expertise and vision to these recommendations. A special thank you goes to Margaret Bard, BA; Pat Kahn, MA; and Lida Kluzek, BS, our dedicated members, who participated in the Study Group.*

*To see the entire report go to [www.aauw-lgs.org/newsletter](http://www.aauw-lgs.org/newsletter) or call Gail Pedersen, 377-6895 and I will email a PDF of the report to you.*

## April 2011 AAUW Calendar

- 1 Friday **Travel “Armchair Adventures,”** 8:00 pm at The Terraces of Los Gatos, 800 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos. Program: “*Thailand – Land of Smiles.*” Chair: JoAn Lambert, 867-6237. Co-chairs: Pat Khan, 741-1616; Corinne Rathjens, 867-2445.
- 4 Monday **Board Meeting,** 3:30 pm, in the Community Room at the Saratoga Fire Station, corner of Saratoga Ave & Saratoga/Los Gatos Road.
- 5 Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish,** 1:30-2:30 pm at the home of Nancy Anderson, 13561 Lomond Court, Saratoga. RSVP to Nancy, 867-4383. Contact either: Sharon Kelkenberg, 650.962.1656; Helen Lemmon, 408.867.0575.
- 6 Wednesday **Current Interests Blog,** 12:30 pm at Florentine Trattoria restaurant on Big Basin Way in Saratoga. Chair: Shirley Cancellieri, 741-5586. Co-chairs: Joan Kjemtrup, 356-6016; Barbara Hawkes, 395-4397.
- 9 Saturday **English Tea Fundraiser** (sponsored by The Committee on Homeless Women & Children) 1:00-4:00 pm. Saratoga Recreation Center. *See bottom of front page or page 3 for details.* Tickets (\$35, tax deductible) are going fast, contact Patty Weber, 264-2601. Chair: Nancy Anderson, 867-4383.
- 12 Tuesday **Committee for Homeless Women and Children,** 7:00 pm at the home of Nancy Anderson, 13561 Lomond Ct., Saratoga. Chair: Nancy Anderson, 867-4383
- 13 Wednesday **Let’s Do Lunch,** 11:30 am at restaurant Tapestry; a California Bistro, 11 Cottage Avenue, Los Gatos. All members and guests welcome. Reservations to hostess Joan Kjemtrup, 356-6016. Chair, Catherine Reinhardt, 867-0607.
- 14 Thursday **Scenic Hikes and Walks, Rancho San Vincente.** We will hike the hills of this new park acquisition above Calero Reservoir. Great views. Wildflowers. Bring lunch. Back by 4pm. Meet promptly at 9:00 am in the Los Gatos Park and Ride behind Starbucks. Questions? Kay Duffy, 867-0508; Jane Bishop, 356-7796.
- 15 Friday **AM Book Review,** 9:30 am at the home of Sandy Rappaport, 23484 Sunset Drive, Los Gatos, 353-1253. Chair: Margaret Bard, 377-6625.
- 19 Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish,** 1:30-2:30 pm at the home of Nancy Anderson, 13561 Lomond Court, Saratoga, 867-4383. Contact either: Sharon Kelkenberg, 650.962.1656; Helen Lemmon, 408.867.0575.
- 19 Tuesday **PM Book Review,** 7:30 pm “*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*” by Stieg Larsson. Reviewer: Margaret Ford. Saratoga Retirement Community, 14500 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga. RSVP to Licia Thomson, 741-7611. Co-chairs; Pat Khan, 741-1616; Marlene Lamb, 356-8441.
- 26 Tuesday **Film Buffs,** 1:30-3:00 pm at the home of Barbara Lea, 121 Strathmore Place, Los Gatos. RSVP to Barbara at 354-2287. Chair: Mary Ellen Madden, 264-4488.
- 28 Thursday **Back-by-Noon Hikes** Meet promptly at 9:00 am at the Argonaut Shopping Center way out in front of CVS Drug Store.
- 30 Saturday **Pot-Luck Luncheon Announcing Grant Awards** (EF, Tech Trek, and Election of Officers) 11:00 am-1:30 pm. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga. Chair: Geri Williams, 642-5042.

## May 2011

- 4 Friday **Travel “Armchair” Adventures,** 7:30 pm, at The Terraces of Los Gatos, 800 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos. Program: TBA. Chair: JoAn Lambert, 867-6237. Co-chairs: Pat Khan, 741-1616; Corinne Rathjens, 867-2445.



Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch  
American Association of University Women  
18951 Easton Place  
Saratoga, CA 95070

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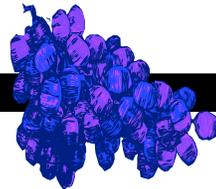
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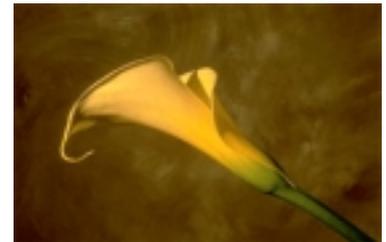
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**You will be receiving your renewal notices soon.**

We will be mailing out the AAUW Los Gatos-Saratoga branch renewals during the first part of April. Thank you for your prompt response.

Please send any additions, corrections or changes in the Directory Information to Patty Weber, Database Manager, [xaviercugat@comcast.net](mailto:xaviercugat@comcast.net)



**Qualification of Membership**

Anyone holding an associate, baccalaureate, graduate degree or the equivalent, or nursing school diploma or business school associate degree from an accredited institution is eligible for membership. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

**Recruiting New Members**

If you want to have a printed copy of the Grapevine and a membership packet sent to a prospective NEW member, contact Gail Pedersen, Grapevine editor, at 377-6895 or [gail\\_pedersen@yahoo.com](mailto:gail_pedersen@yahoo.com).