

April 2015 – Tea & Talk Fundraiser

Silver English Tea & Silent Auction

Los Gatos-Saratoga AAUW

Saturday, April 25, 2015

2:00 – 4:00

Joan Pisani Community and Senior Center
19655 Allendale Ave, Saratoga

Doors open for Auction Viewing at 1:00
Tea Served at 2:00

Door Prizes and Jewelry Tables



Benefit for the Homeless Women and Children and Local Scholarships

Reservations are being taken now! Sign up to attend – see page 4 of this Grapevine issue for details.

Coming This Month . . .

Our Annual Spring Potluck Celebrates Success!

Saturday, April 18, 2015 | 11:15 am to 1:30 pm

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (13601 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga)

Featured speaker **Elizabeth Manzi**, a Selected Professions Fellowship recipient working on her M.S. in Civil Engineering at Stanford; her topic is **"Sustainable Building Design and Construction."** We will also announce our Named Gift Honorees and our newest Honorary Life Members. Meet our Tech Trek campers and our Local Scholarship recipients.

Please bring your favorite salad, a tasty appetizer or an interesting cold dish to share. The branch will furnish rolls, beverages, and dessert.

Questions? Ask Virginia Turner, vturner@sbcglobal.net; (408) 866-4234.



Letter from the President

Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey about where we should be focusing our attention and how we might recruit more members for AAUW. The responses are shown in a separate article elsewhere in this *Grapevine*; the results will affect our planning and programming for the coming year.

April promises to be a busy month for the branch. At our annual **Potluck Luncheon** on April 18 you can meet our Local Scholarship recipients who are transferring from West Valley College to four-year colleges or universities, and you will hear from Elizabeth Manzi, one of the women who received funding from the Association for her graduate level studies. Bring a dish to share; more details are in this *Grapevine*.

The **English Tea** on April 25 raises money for the Committee on Homeless Women and Children and for our Local Scholarships. The hospitality students from Mission College will provide delicious food, and the silent auction and jewelry tables will offer many interesting items for

purchase. You'll see first-hand the impact that AAUW's support has had on women's lives. Invite some friends to join you and learn more about AAUW and about our local projects; tickets are \$45 each.

Some follow-up notes: Our Authors' Lunch on January 21 showcased three very different local women who continue to affect our local community and other parts of the world. **Erica Goss** (*Los Gatos Poet Laureate*), David Perez (*Poet Laureate of Santa Clara County*) and Jennifer Swanton Brown (*Poet Laureate of Cupertino*) have started a summer camp designed to teach video poetry to teen-aged girls. Check it out at www.indiegogo.com/projects/media-poetry-studio/x/24658. Anthropologist (*and Harley rider*) **Barbara Joans** reported that her class for "older women" has 50 women attending, which exceeded her expectations. **Lauri Pastrone** sold enough copies of the cookbook "*Share*" to sponsor one woman through **Women for Women International**, and several members are considering their own sponsorship.



The Alzheimer's Association (*our February 19 speaker*) is holding its "**Reason to Hope Luncheon**" on April 30 with proceeds used to expand family services and education programs, as well as research. Details can be found on their website www.alz.org.

If you have any suggestions for improving our branch programs and recruiting efforts, please feel free to call or send me an email. We value your continuing support for AAUW.

–Virginia Turner, President
vturner@sbcglobal.net; | 408-866-4234

Report from the Nominating Committee

The following are the nominees for 2015-2016 Elected Officers:

President – **open**

President Elect – **open**

Financial VP – Louise Quenon

AAUW Funds (*Authors' Luncheon*) – Judith Borlase

Legal Advocacy Fund VP – **open**

Program VP – **open**

Secretary – Kay Duffy

Membership VP – Virginia Turner

Membership Treasurer – Gail Pedersen

Please consider whether you would be interested in serving in one of the open positions; many positions can be shared. Additional nominees can be proposed at the April 18 potluck lunch, when elections will be held. Officers will be installed at the May 15 general meeting.

Coming Next Month . . .**Working to Exonerate Those Wrongfully Convicted of Serious Crime**

**Friday, May 15, 2015
10:00 am to 12:00 Noon**

Community Room, Saratoga Library
(13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga)

The **Northern California Innocence Project (NCIP)** promotes a fair, effective and compassionate criminal justice system which protects the rights of the innocent.

Our speaker, **Maitreya Badami**, NCIP's Assistant Legal Director, will discuss how NCIP works and give us a more detailed explanation of one of the local cases which led to exoneration.

Since its founding in 2001, NCIP has helped win the freedom of 17 wrongfully imprisoned individuals, sponsored legislation to protect the innocent, and helped to train law enforcement personnel in the best practices.

Co-sponsored by Los Gatos-Saratoga AAUW and Saratoga Library

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

For additional information, please contact
Virginia Turner ~ (408) 866-4234
vaturner@sbcglobal.net

**Homeless Committee Report –
Women's Gathering Place**

Our Branch Committee on Homeless Women & Children has begun supporting a fledgling organization for homeless women, the **Women's Gathering Place (WGP)**. Right now WGP is providing a refuge for homeless women two afternoons a week; it plans to provide services five days a week. In addition to a safe place to gather, WGP plans to provide a hot meal, showers, clothes washing facilities, group activities, and needed social services for the women.

You are Invited!

The Grand Opening of the **Women's Gathering Place** will be on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of San Jose (49 No. Fourth Street at Santa Clara). Because of this Committee's involvement in the project, WGP has invited all of our AAUW members to attend this event. You'll have the opportunity to meet some of the women who are participating in the program, see the facilities, and meet other people who share our concern for homeless women. Please join us in welcoming this very needed service to our community. Contact Joyce Sogg (joycelawyer@verizon.net; 408-354-5122) if you would like directions or to share a ride.

Can't come to this event? Here are some other things you can do:

1. Make a cash donation at www.womensgatheringplace.org or write a check to First Presbyterian Church/WGP and send to First Presbyterian Church, 49 N. 4th Street, San Jose, CA 95112.
2. Volunteer to lead a craft project with the women. Do you crochet, draw, collage?
3. Bring music or entertainment to the women – song sheets, ukulele, kazoo?
4. Teach self-help or life skills.
5. Lead an exercise, yoga, or dance class.
6. Cook a meal for 15 to 17 women. If we get several volunteers for cooking, we may be able to pair you up with another cook. Contact Joyce joycelawyer@verizon.net (408) 354-5122

For more information about these volunteer opportunities, contact Karleen at volunteerfpcs@gmail.com or (408) 297-7212.

*The Homeless Committee is pleased to be working with the **Women's Gathering Place** and encourages you to support our efforts – AAUW women do the right thing.*

English Tea and Silent Auction

Join us for Tea & Talk

Benefit for the Homeless Women and Children ♦ Local Scholarships

Saturday, April 25, 2015

2:00 – 4:00

Joan Pisani Community and Senior Center, 19655 Allendale Ave, Saratoga

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Tea Served at 2:00

**Door Prizes
Jewelry Table**



Presented by Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch, AAUW

TICKETS: Contact Pat Khan 408.741.1616 | patannkhan@gmail.com

\$45 (\$30 Tax Deductible)

Seating limited to 150

Checks Payable To: ISPF - AAUW

(Interbranch Special Projects Foundation)

News – Gifts for Teens & San Jose AAUW Branch

Gifts for Teens Receives Shark Foundation Grant

Gifts for Teens was thrilled to be one of the recipients of a Shark Foundation grant presented February 15, 2015. The generous \$24,300 grant will fund new shoe gift cards for local needy teens for this year's holiday gift bags. What a welcome addition.

Thank you Sharks Foundation!

– Jan Giroux, jgiroux603@aol.com

Silicon Valley Day of Giving – Think Gift for Teens

Gifts for Teens will again participate in Silicon Valley Gives Day of Giving on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. This is an online 24-hour donation opportunity to contribute to *Gift for Teens* and help needy local teens.

The process is easy. Give online using a credit or debit card at <http://svgives.razoo.com/story/Gifts-For-Teens>. For mobile access: svgives.razoo.com and click on teens. Make your contribution to *Gifts for Teens* anytime on May 5th and join the spirit of giving.

Read About . . .

The 2015 Local Scholarship Recipients

The Local Scholarship Committee has selected three recipients for this year's scholarships.

There were seven applicants this year, and all of them were outstanding students. The committee had an impossible time determining only two winners. Thus, we decided to award three scholarships. **The three winners are:**

STEPHANIE HADLEY –

Stephanie's career goal is Astronautical Engineering and Astroparticle Physics. She transitioned from studying Fashion Design to Astronautical Engineering and Astroparticle Physics after watching documentaries that address questions about the universe and research on the theories attempting to unify the articles and forces as well as the theoretical candidates for dark matter. She wants to embrace the innate human curiosity within, equipped with imagination, to ultimately contribute to scientific research.

Stephanie co-founded the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Club in 2014. She tutored in the Math Resource Center and in Tutorial Services. She volunteered at the UCO Lick Observatory. She was recently selected to travel to NASA's Johnson Space Center to participate in the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars project. She was also selected as 1 of 5 out of 80 applicants to the University of California Santa Cruz Computational Astrophysics Fellowship to do original research under a mentor, Dr. Joel Primack, the man responsible for the modern model of the universe known as the

Lambda Cold Dark Matter Model. With the scholarship, she hopes to focus on her studies and continue making strides in her pursuit to contribute to the advancement of scientific technology and research. Stephanie plans to attend San Jose State University in the Fall of 2015.

HANIEH SEPASIAN –

Hanieh's dream of majoring in Biology developed at an early age. She always wanted to help people feel better. Hanieh left everything familiar behind when her family moved from Iran to the United States. She did not know a word of English. She was forced to grow up and look for a job since she is the sole provider for her family.

Her goal is to become a surgeon. She wants to bring positive change into the lives of people. She brought her passion and dream throughout her experience at West Valley College. She worked as an intern for two doctors and volunteered for a Healthy Living program. Growing up in Iran, she experienced many hardships because she is a woman. However, here in this country Hanieh has been able to succeed through hard work and struggles. The scholarship will help her family as well as to fulfill her dream of working as a physician. Hanieh has applied to UC Santa Cruz for the Fall 2015 semester.

ELIZABETH MOSS –

Elizabeth's early experience with Mathematics was not good; she hated Math. She applied for services at West Valley College Disability Education Support Program (DESP). She was given an

assessment for Learning Disabilities. A Math instructor became her mentor and asked Elizabeth to tutor within the Disabilities and Educational Support Program. A paid tutoring position within the program was offered to her. Her goal is not just to teach Math but to help as many people as possible obtain clarity with the learning process in any given subject.

Elizabeth began participating in the campus community and became the President of Voices Literary Magazine. She also was elected to be the secretary of the Inter Club Council. This spring she will be a supplemental instructor in the DESP department. It requires a model student to be present at all classes and act as a conduit between the classroom setting and the tutoring session. The scholarship will help her gain financial independence as she is working on three jobs. She is planning on transferring to UC Santa Cruz as a Mathematics major in the Fall of 2015. Her career goal is to be a Learning Specialist.

As you can see, we have three exceptional recipients. Each recipient will receive \$1,500 upon proof of enrollment in the Fall of 2015.

We hope you will attend the annual **Potluck Luncheon and Award Celebration** on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church to meet them. (*See bottom of front page for more details.*) With the support and donations to the Local Scholarship Fund from our members, we have been able to help these deserving students.

Thank you very much for your continued support!

Local Scholarship Committee Members: Marilyn Fuller, Audry Lynch, Lavonne Marafino, Karen Pock, Dianne Priest, Ann Roberts and Sumi Tanabe, Chair.

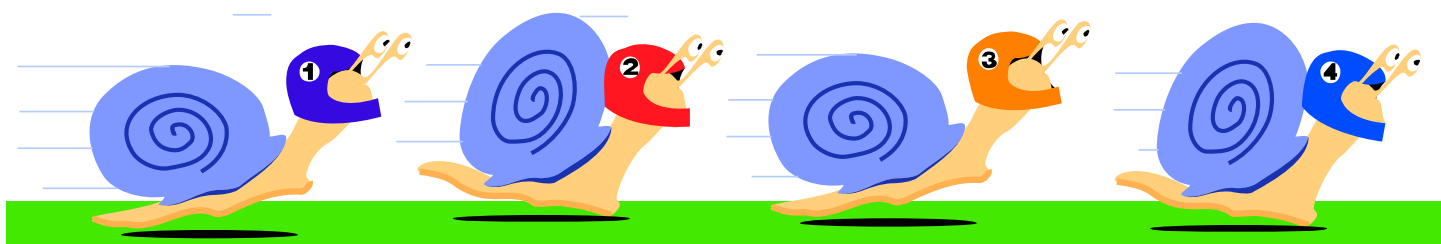
In Memoriam – Marie McGowan

Joanna Yates let us know that **Marie McGowan** passed away peacefully on March 8, 2015 in her home. Marie had missed many of the “**Let’s Do Lunch**” gatherings in recent months and several people have asked if anyone had heard from her. Joanna phoned her a couple of weeks ago and left a message. Marie’s neighbor called to let us know that she had passed. Marie wanted to remain independent in her home. For the last two months she received at home Hospice Care and help from two neighbors.



There will be no memorial; she didn’t want one. Marie doesn’t have many relatives, her sister lives in San Francisco and a nephew came to visit her from Japan when he realized she was terminally ill. We will all miss her at our “**Let’s Do Lunch**” gatherings.

Marie did request that if anyone wants to make a donation in her memory, her preference would be the Santa Clara County Humane Society, the main location.



Next Month – May 2015

PM – Book Review Book.

Title: *The Invention of Wings*,
by Sue Monk Kidd.

Reviewer: Ann Roberts

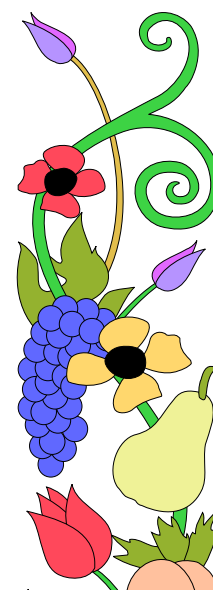


Qualification of Membership

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



April 2015 AAUW Calendar

- 6** Monday **Board Meeting.** Meets 3:30 pm in the Community Room, the Saratoga Fire Station (*corner of Saratoga Ave & Saratoga/Los Gatos Rd.*).
- 7** Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets 1:30-3:00 pm at Nancy Anderson's home (*13561 Lomond Ct., Saratoga*). RSVP to Nancy Anderson, (408) 867-438. Chair: Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656. **Spanish speakers are welcome!**
- 8** Wednesday **Let's Do Lunch.** Meets 12:30 pm at Tomatina's (*5245 Prospect Rd., San Jose –across from Westgate.*) RSVP: Shirley Cancelliari, (408) 741-5586; Chair, Joanna Yates, (408) 395-2950.
- 9** Thursday **Scenic Hikes and Walks. Russian Ridge Open Space.** Discover the new deck and overlook at Audrey's Point off of Skyline in San Mateo. (*Honors Audrey Rust, former head of POST (Peninsula Open Space Trust) who has done so much for open space preservation in our area.*) Bring lunch. Meet promptly at 9:00 am at Argonaut Center, Saratoga, way out in front of CVS Drugs. Questions? Jane Bishop, (408) 356-7796; Kay Duffy, (408) 867-0508.
- 10** Friday **Travel – Armchair Adventures. Note change of date!** Meets 7:30 pm at the Terraces (*800 Blossom Hill Rd., Los Gatos*). **“Off the Tourist Route in India”** Presented by Ken Bloomfield. This trip took Bloomfield to the unique far northern states of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, and Kashmir, into the Himalayas and the Dali Lama's home. Sparsely populated, mainly Buddhist, and (*because of the high elevation*) lacking natural vegetation. **All visitors are welcome!**
- 14** Tuesday **Committee for Homeless Women and Children.** Meets at 7:00 pm the home of Pat Khan (*13710 Calle Tacuba, Saratoga*). RSVP to Chair: Pat Khan, (408) 741-1616. **All are welcome!**
- 17** Friday **AM Book Review.** Meets at 9:30 am. Bring a book (*good or bad*) to talk about. Contact Margaret Bard, (408) 377-6625, for meeting location. **New participants welcome!**
- 18** Saturday **General Meeting – Annual Potluck Lunch and Election of Officers.** Meets at 11:30 am at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Saratoga. (*See the bottom of front page for details.*)
- 21** Tuesday **PM Book Group.** Meets 7:30 pm at Saratoga Retirement Community (*14500 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga*). Book to be reviewed: **“Persuasion”** by Jane Austen. Reviewed by Pauline Berkowitz. RSVP to Marilyn Lenormand, (408) 741-7820. Co-Chairs: Pat Khan, (408) 741-1616; Marlene Lamb, (408) 497-1555. **Readers are welcome!**
- 23** Thursday **Back-By-Noon Hike.** Meet promptly at 9:00 am at Argonaut Center, Saratoga, way out in front of CVS Drugs. Questions? Jane Bishop, (408) 356-7796; Kay Duffy, (408) 867-0508.
- 25** Saturday **English Tea & Silent Auction.** 1:00 to 4:00 pm Fundraiser for Committee on Homeless Women & Children and Local Scholarships. Cost \$45. Tickets limited. Contact Pat Khan (408) 741-1616. (*For details see front page and page 4.*)
- 28** Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets 1:30-3:00 pm at Nancy Anderson's home (*13561 Lomond Ct., Saratoga*). Help improve or maintain your conversational skills. RSVP to Nancy Anderson, (408) 867-4383. Chair: Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656. **Visitors are welcome!**
- 28** Tuesday **Film Buffs.** Meets at 1:30 pm (*15550 Winchester Blvd., Monte Sereno*). RSVP to Madeleine Salzman, (408) 335-4304. Chair: Mary Ellen Madden, (408) 264-4488. **Like movies? Join us!**

May 2015

- 1** Friday **Travel – Armchair Adventures.** Meets 7:30 pm at the Terraces (*800 Blossom Hill Rd., Los Gatos*) **My Memorable Trip to Bhutan, 2011.** Presented by traveler Yao-Pi Hsu. **“I fell back in time and space once I landed in Bhutan with its well preserved natural environment, culture, religion, and friendly people. Bhutan is a Shangri La hidden deep in the Himalayan mountains. Join me on this unforgettable trip.” All visitors are welcome!**
- 4** Monday **Board Meeting.** Meets 3:30 pm in the Community Room, the Saratoga Fire Station, corner of Saratoga Ave & Saratoga/Los Gatos Road.
- 5** Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets 1:30-3:00 pm at Nancy Anderson's home (*13561 Lomond Ct., Saratoga*). Help improve or maintain your conversational skills. RSVP to Nancy Anderson, (408) 867-4383. Chair: Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656. **Visitors are welcome!**

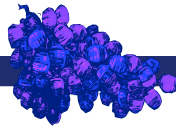


April 2015

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Grapevine Newsletter Editor, Gail Pedersen; Proofreader, Joyce Sogg; Calendar Editor, Joyce Sogg; **The final deadline for copy is the 10th of the month.** Copy to gail_pedersen@yahoo.com

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Contact Changes for Your Directory

Geri Williams

New Address: 412 Rio Del Mar Blvd.
Aptos, CA 95003 | Phone: (831) 708-4133

Beverly Haughton

New Phone: (408) 356-4832. We have been having a lot of trouble with our phone since our move and this number is now stable.

Please send any additions, corrections or changes in the Directory Information to Louise Quenon, Database Manager, LQuenon@comcast.net

Send a Ray of Sunshine to a Member in Need!

Do you know anyone who is ill or in need of support? Please send her information to Lavonne Marafino, Sunshine Chair.

Contact Lavonne at 408-867-1964, or lnmarafino@att.net



Read About . . .

Los Gatos-Saratoga Member Survey Results

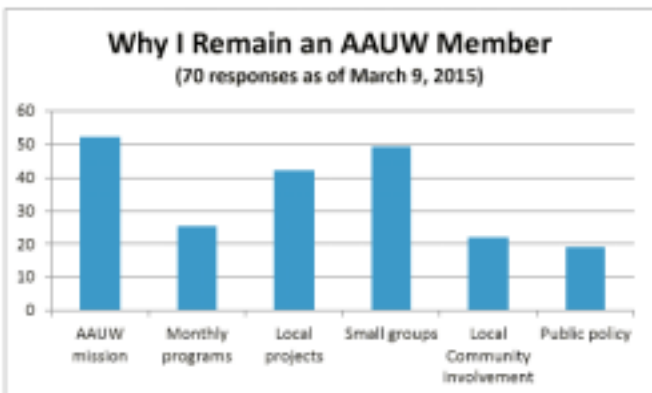
How well is the Los Gatos-Saratoga branch of AAUW meeting the expectations of its members?

The Board thought we should ask. Our survey was mailed to 156 members, and 70 (45%) responded by the March 9 deadline. This is an excellent response rate since many surveys gather only 5% or 6% response rate. Our members **care about AAUW** and appreciated our effort to ask them their opinion. The Board will be looking at the survey results when planning for next year.

1. Why do I remain an AAUW member?

The most important reason (52 responses) was the AAUW mission, closely followed by small interest groups (49) and our local projects (42). Somewhat less important were monthly meetings (25), local community involvement (22) and public policy (19). Other reasons cited included meeting like-minded women (4), socializing (2) and meetings with other branches (1).

So it's very important that we maintain our connection with the overall mission of promoting equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research, while connecting members to smaller groups and local project committees.



2. How many general monthly meetings should we have?

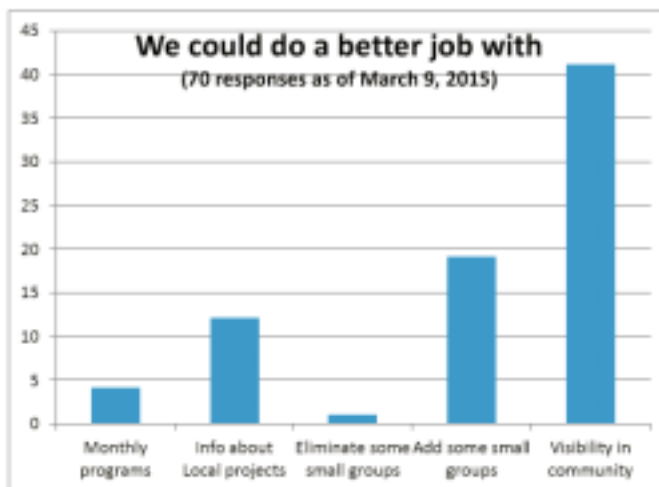
Most respondents (30 = 43%) thought that about every other month would be fine, while 16 (23%) thought we should continue to have a program every month and 14 (20%) preferred only 2 general meetings plus our 2 fundraising events. The other 10 (14%) had no opinion.

Maybe we have been putting too much time and effort into the monthly meetings – time and effort that could be better spent on supporting our small interest groups and local projects.



3. Where could we do a better job?

By far the biggest area where we could improve is visibility within the community (41 responses or 59%), followed distantly by adding some small groups (19 = 27%) and providing more information about our local projects (12 = 17%). Visibility was also mentioned as a way we could recruit more members so this could be a major branch effort in the coming year.



See the next page for the responses to the question **How can we recruit new members?**

Continued from the previous page – Survey Results.

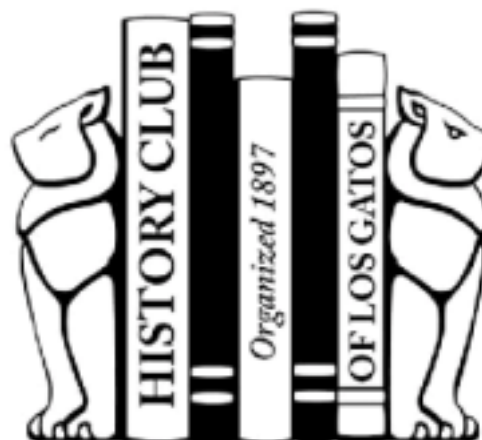
4. How can we recruit new members?

This was an open-ended question which generated several suggestions:

- Be **more visible in the community**: Advertise our meetings and events better, participate in community events, work with local Asian organizations, co-sponsor programs with other groups, ask local realtors to provide our materials
- Recruit **new college graduates**: Give them a membership, have AAUW information available on campuses, connect with our local high schools
- Encourage current members to **bring new members**: Bring a prospective member to an event or meeting, bring a prospective member to a small group or committee, invite daughters, granddaughters and other family members to join, carry an AAUW brochure with you
- Look for **people who already know about AAUW**: Parents of Tech Trek girls, West Valley College staff, Local Scholarship recipients, recently retired teachers
- **Treat new members nicely**: Introduce them at meetings, talk with them and not just people you already know, encourage them to bring their friends, get more feedback from them
- Possible **recruiting events**: Coffee/tea in someone's home, luncheon meetings, early evening "happy hour" for working women, a Young Professionals meeting
- Other ideas: Reduce the cost of membership, vary the times of meetings even for a small group, have a meeting to generate more ideas.

The best way to recruit new members is by **word of mouth** – YOUR mouth and MY mouth. People say they didn't join AAUW because they weren't invited so let's make sure that we invite them to join a great organization!

–Virginia Turner, President



Community • Social • Philanthropy

Foodies' Delight – A World of Tastes

Calling all Ladies who Lunch! On Wednesday, April 22, 2015 "A World of Tastes" features culinary treats from around the world, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at 123 Los Gatos Blvd., Los Gatos and you are invited. Interesting International displays and ethnic foods will be featured. Gather a group of friends to enjoy the experience and plan on a fun spring outing! **Cost is \$25.**

This exciting event is hosted by The History Club of Los Gatos at their beautiful site and benefits Gifts for Teen's holiday gift bag project for homeless and low-income teens. The History Club of Los Gatos' mission is to support the welfare of local women and children, as does AAUW. For tickets – contact Therese Wiese, (408) 226-6365, tickets@historyclubblogatos.org, or contact Elaine Benoit.

–Elaine Benoit, ebenoit99@yahoo.com

APRIL 2015 CALENDAR

Mark your calendar for:

"A World of Tastes" - International Lunch

Wednesday, April 22, 2015; 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
at the History Club of Los Gatos
(123 Los Gatos Blvd., Los Gatos)

For Tickets call, Therese Wiese, (408) 226-6365; or go to – tickets@historyclubblogatos.org