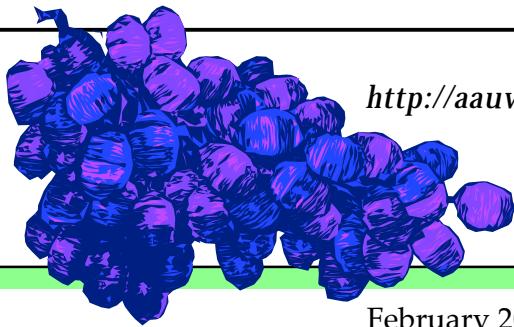


Grapevine



Volume 42, Number 6

February 2010

Avoid Being A Scam Victim



February General Meeting

Speaker: Kimberly Connors, DA office

When: Thursday, February 25, 2010

1pm – 3pm

Where: Saratoga Library, Community Room
13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga

Kimberly Connors, JD, began her career as a police officer with the San Jose Police Department in 1984. From 1984 to 1990 she worked patrol and narcotics enforcement. In 1990, she left the police department to attend Cornell Law School. In 1994

she joined the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office. Over the past 15 years she has worked Narcotics, Family Support, General Felonies, Sexual Assault and Community Prosecution. She is currently assigned to the Elder & Dependent Adult Financial Abuse Unit.



In 2001, she was one of twelve people selected as a White House Fellow. She took a one year leave of absence from the DA's office to work for Secretary Mel Martinez at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Advance Ticket Sale for 22nd Annual English Tea & Silent Auction

Springtime Tea Cups

Saturday, April 10, 2010, 2 – 4pm

Saratoga Community Center (*New Venue*)
19665 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga

Tickets are \$35 (*Tax Deductible*) – Call Patty Weber, 264-2601 Make check payable to ISPF (Interbranch Special Projects Foundations)

Benefit for Homeless Women and Children at InnVision's Georgia Travis Center & the Villa; San Jose Family Shelter; and Catholic Charities.





Message from the President

Our branch ended the year with a well-attended, successful Holiday Party in December. Saint Nicholas' presence added to the holiday spirit of our gathering. (*See picture of my husband, Nick (right) who greeted guests as a festive St. Nick.*) Photo credit is to Margaret Bard.

Special thanks to the set up group: Mary Surginer, Barbara Oggerino, Gail Pedersen and Nick Marafino, who were there on the Saturday before. A very special thanks also to Anita Wolf, who lives at Vasona Terraces and was able to get the use of the Clubhouse for us.

On February 6th the IBC (InterBranch Council) will be hosting a workshop at the Camden Community Center on Union Avenue near Camden Avenue. (*See article on page 3 in this issue of the Grapevine.*) Charlotte Newhart, AAUW advocate in California, will be the guest speaker.

Our January Board Meeting was held on the first Monday of the month. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- The March Board Meeting has been moved from March 1 to March 8. The meeting place remains the same. (*Notice below*)
- Geri Williams, EF Vice President, gave a report on the upcoming Author's Luncheon, January 27th at the La Rinconada Hills Country Club. The Three authors to speak are: Valerie Lewis, Suzanne

Woods Fisher, and Camille Minichino. Geri and her committee have been working on this for a long time. I know it will be a success. Don't miss it.

Other news:

- Kudos to Joan Kjemtrup, Sarah Model and Barbara Hawkes for their leadership in the Independent Women interest group in January. A seminar "Selling on eBay," an interesting program, presented by Fritz Model (*Sarah's son*). It was well-attended.
- The Finance Executive Committee met again on January 18. We discussed ways to improve the financial health of the chapter.
- Please submit your recipes for appetizers or desserts to be included in our *Beginning and Ending Cookbook* to either Gail Pedersen or myself. (*See details on the back page.*)
- The nominating committee is meeting on January 7 to "get things going," according to Mary Suringer, the chair. The members are as follows: Joan Kjemtrup, Gladys Armstrong, Margaret Bard, Marlene Duffin and, of course, Mary.
- Marge Bunyard and Sharon Kelkenberg presented another set of By-laws to the Board. This set has been state approved. After much discussion, the Board voted to approve the revised By-laws. They will be presented to the membership at the next General Meeting on Thursday, February 25. (*See the details on the front page.*)

Date Change March Board Meeting

The AAUW Board Meeting will be moved to Monday, March 8th at 3:30pm
Saratoga Fire Station, Community Room



What is the IBC?

I want to tell you about the InterBranch Council (IBC) activities, as many members are not aware of its activities.

All of the Branches in Santa Clara County are represented at the IBC with meetings every other month at the San Jose Branch site on Minnesota Avenue (*next to the Willow Glen Library*). This past year (2008-2009) we were in charge of the IBC with Jean Wenberg as President of the Council. Virginia Turner, who is currently our IBC representative, was treasurer. Margaret Bard served as secretary and I was there as our branch's President-Elect. With Jean at the helm, activities went smoothly.

This year Palo Alto is in charge of the IBC with Mary Elizabeth O'Connor as the President. The first meeting of 2010 will be on January 23 at the San Jose Branch site. Virginia Turner and I will be attending.

I look forward to seeing you at General Meeting on Thursday, February 25 at the Saratoga Library.

-Lavonne Marafino

AAUW-CA Lobbyist to Speak Locally

Charlotte Newhart, official AAUW California advocate, will speak on Saturday, February 6, 2010. Ms. Newhart will discuss the topic: **"Public Input – Better Output: Legislation You Can Support for CA Women and Families."**

She has been working in four California areas: legislative, state regulatory, state administrative decision making and action, and the state budget. The issues that Ms. Newhart is fighting in Sacramento for are:

- Constitutional protection of civil rights
- Vigorous enforcement of regulations on gender equity
- Public education and lifelong learning
- Research and reform to improve student achievement
- Access to health care and the expansion of patient rights
- Greater access to high quality, affordable family care services
- Freedom from violence and fear in homes, schools, workplaces and communities

Ms. Newhart's expertise is in the political process and accomplishing changes for improved state programs and services while preventing those changes that would undermine advances. Find out how you can help in this mission.

When and Where:

Saturday, February 6, 2009,

at 9:30 - 12:00 pm

Coffee - 9:30 am

Program - 10:00 - 12:00 pm

at Camden Community Center (*on Union Avenue, near Camden Avenue in San Jose*)

This is a community event that is both free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Interbranch Special Projects Foundation, AAUW.

Protect Social Security and Medicare

Social Security is one of our country's most successful anti-poverty programs, providing benefits to children, disabled workers, surviving spouses, and retirees. Without Social Security benefits, more than half of older women would fall into poverty. However, there is growing movement in the Senate to reduce the federal budget deficit by cutting Social Security and Medicare programs, which would have a devastating and disproportionately negative impact on women. Urge your senators to oppose cuts to these programs.

Several senators have threatened to hold up other budget legislation unless a debt-reducing, entitlement-cutting commission is established. This commission's recommendations would be crafted behind closed doors, the normal process of debate would be ignored, and no amend-

ments would be allowed before the vote. This 'all or nothing' commission would fast-track cuts to these critical programs. AAUW opposes this clearly undemocratic, non-transparent commission process.

The Social Security program continues to run a surplus and is expected to be able to pay full benefits for another 30 years without affecting the deficit, giving Congress ample time to make adjustments to future benefits through the normal legislative process. And the best way to reign in the costs of Medicare is through the current health care reform bills, not by cutting benefits to the millions of Americans who depend on the program for their health care.

TAKE ACTION! Urge your senators to oppose the formulation of an undemocratic commission that would target Social Security and Medicare programs.

Calling All AAUW Artists

There is still time to enter the 2010 AAUW art contest, a showcase of the artistic talents of AAUW members. The contest is open exclusively to AAUW members, who may submit their original artwork beginning January 8, 2010 (*announcement was in the last issue of the Grapevine*). You still have plenty of time to get your original artwork in. You may submit your entry from **January 8 through February 10**: Submit your designs through the art contest website at aauw.org. The winning entries will be displayed in the 2010–11 AAUW calendar, with a unique work of art presented each month.

Enter soon and encourage your friends also. Then make sure to visit the AAUW design gallery to see all the terrific submissions and to vote for your favorites.

February 11 through March 11: AAUW members will select the designs that appear in the calendar by voting online once a week for their favorites.

Help us ensure that the calendars we mail to AAUW members this year are uniquely AAUW!





'How to Sell on eBay?'

Guest Speaker for the Independent Women Interest Group

On January 6, a group of eighteen of us (the largest attendance ever) met at Joan Kjemtrup's home to listen to a presentation by Fritz Model on "*How to Sell on eBay.*"

Fritz began his talk by relating his experience on how he successfully sold his car on eBay. He then gave us a step-by-step tutorial on how to sell an item on eBay. To demonstrate the process, Fritz listed a new pair of children's shoes that he did not need and went through each step to create the eBay listing.

1. Describe the item.
2. Insert a picture of the item.
3. Select the method of payment.
4. Select the method of shipment.
5. Decide whether to list the item at a fixed price to sell right away or list the item for auction.
6. Finish the listing.

Fritz took all of our questions and gave us a list of resources to learn more about the selling process. It was a very informative meeting and we all thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.

Join us on Wednesday, February 3 to hear Barbara Lea speak on the topic: "*Healthcare Legislation in California and the Nation.*" Please see the calendar for details.

—Sarah Model

Recollections of the 1970's

The word for this decade was EQUALITY. Guided by those beliefs, the Los Gatos/Saratoga Branch devoted their efforts in the next biennium to the preservation of individual liberties. 1971 brought official support for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), and was made the Association's top priority in 1975.

The Branch started some new sections—BEAUTIFUL YOU and HOUSE BEAUTIFUL.

During 1971-1973 a Focus Group was begun which was community-oriented as well as action-oriented. Marlene Duffin, Cynthia Vailey and Jan Kimball were nominated for the Outstanding Young Women of America.

Peggy Corr was appointed the first woman on the Saratoga City Council. The Branch had over 500 members.

1975-1976

The Branch became politically active by protesting to Saratoga City Council the \$130 per year charge for the city agenda packets. The Branch actively supported a new city library on the

site at Saratoga and Fruitvale Avenues.

Our Branch cosponsored with the League of Women Voters a CANDIDATES FORUM for Santa Clara County voters to meet local, county, state and federal office candidates.

The Branch opposed the construction of a West Valley College stadium.

1977-1978

The topics studied under the Presidency of Marjorie Bunyard included Politics of Food, Living with Less, Women as Agents of Change and Redefining Goals in Education.

During the end of the 70's there was controversy about the AAUW (U.S.) requesting more representation and "say" in the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). We were paying most of the funding but did not have a representative on this Board. Many letters were written to the IFUW in Geneva.

Discussions on men being invited to belong to AAUW went on for months and culminated in a negative vote at the Albuquerque Convention.

—Jean Wenberg, Historian.

AAUW Key 2009 Legislative Accomplishment

Last year, AAUW was instrumental in the passage of several pieces of legislation, including the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provides funding for job training, a \$500 Pell grant increase, and an unemployment insurance increase.

"Overall, AAUW is pleased to report that Washington has heard the concerns of American women and taken the right steps toward addressing some of our nation's most serious problems with respect to economic security,

work-life balance, education, and civil rights," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "However, much work remains to be done as we push for sustainable change and equity for women and girls."

Our 2009 successes include House passage of the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act, Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which would provide employees seven paid sick-leave days per year. Disappointments include the House Stupak vote, Senate efforts to advance school vouchers, and Senate failure to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Homeless Committee Had a Successful and Fun Holiday Brunch

Our Holiday Brunch was a resounding success. The Georgia Travis Center is going through interesting changes which allows for a varied population participating in the many activities being offered. This agency is no longer just a small venue for homeless women and children to find help and solace, but is now opening to a number of community projects to help not only the homeless, but low-income people as well.

Because we are committed to homeless women and children and because we have collected not only funds but gifts for the women with that understanding, we decided to have our holiday party at the Commercial Street Inn, the overnight shelter across

the street from the Georgia Travis Center. This, too, is part of the InnVision agency. We could be assured that we would be providing for homeless women and their children only.

Our Committee put together a very tasty meal and after its consumption, the fun began. The only public room in that building is the dining room that provides seating space for approximately 25 women. It was very snug as we passed out the gifts. But this made for a more intimate feeling from years past, when we had a large room and everyone was spread out. This year committee members were face-to-face with the women and were a closer to their enjoyment as they opened their

gifts. It was not they and we; it was just "we."

These women are more than happy to tell you their story and what led to their being without a home. The stories are tragic and painful but at the meal they were laughing, joking and kidding around. One of the women was celebrating her birthday and was so happy to have gifts. I don't think one of us left that night without truly feeling the holiday spirit, not because of what we did for them, but what they did for us.

SAVE THE DATE! The English Tea is Saturday, April 10. Tickets are on sale now. To purchase tickets contact Patty Weber, 264-2601.

For additional information contact Nancy Anderson, 867-4383.



Crab Louis

It's Dungeness Crab season! The crabs are plentiful from January through early March. Growing up my family made Crab Louis Salads every year at this time of year. This recipe was in the Sunset Magazine about 25 years ago and it has the recipe for traditional Louis Dressing.

Makes: 4 servings

4 bibb lettuce cups
1 large head iceberg lettuce, shredded
2 to 3 cups cooked crab meat, chilled
2 large tomatoes, cut into wedges
2 hard-boiled eggs, shelled and cut into wedges
1/2 English cucumber, sliced
Salt, to taste
Avocado, slices, dipped in lemon water (optional)
Black olives (optional)

Louis Dressing

1/4 cup sour cream
1 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup chili sauce
1/2 cup minced green onion
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Make the *Louis Dressing*. Combine the ingredients and chill for at least 2 to 3 hours to blend the flavors. You can make it the day before.
2. Line four salad plates with the bibb lettuce cups. Place the shredded lettuce in each cup. If necessary, remove any bits of shell from the crab meat. Reserve the claw meat for placing on top.
3. Arrange the crab meat over the lettuce. Arrange the tomato and egg wedges and the cucumber slices in a circle around the crab. Sprinkle with a little salt
4. If you desire, you can add the optional avocado slices and black olives. Top with the claw meat. Pour a few tablespoons of the *Louis Dressing* over each salad. Pass the remaining dressing.

—Gail Pedersen, Grapevine editor

Our Branch Has Two Unique Book Groups

The two book discussion groups have very different formats and meeting times. I have been a member of the Morning Book Group for many years, but the interest group itself has been in existence for as long as any of the current members can remember.

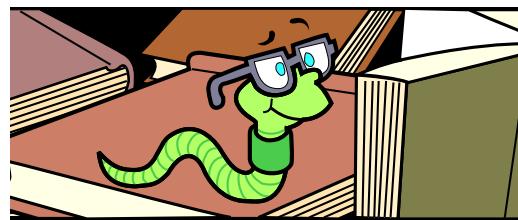
In this discussion group every member reads whatever they want to and reports on it at the meeting in ten minutes or less. The variety of books reported on is astonishing. At a recent meeting at Barbara Oggerino's home, here is a partial list of books members talked about: *The Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell, *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout, *The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer, *The Healing of America* by T.R. Reid, *The Associate* by John Grisham, *Bronx Justice* by Joseph Teller, *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See, *Atchafalaya Houseboat* by Gwen Roland, *The Mother Tongue* by Bill Bryson.

As you can see there is fiction and nonfiction, fun reads and literary gems, and it's always this way. I love to make reading lists from the books I hear about

at these meetings which are held in member's homes monthly except for July and August. Usually ten to fifteen women attend, sometimes less but always a wonderful group. If you would like to join us please phone Kathy Cusick or Barbara Oggerino for more information.

The Evening Book Group is entirely different. I joined it just this year but most of the members have been in the group many years and the group has been in existence for as long as anyone can remember. They meet at the Saratoga Retirement Center in the fall months and at The Terraces in the spring months. About ten to fifteen women attend each month. At the June meeting the books for the following year are selected.

Everyone will read the same book and the person who suggested the book will be the discussion leader. We all sit around a big table and talk about what we did and did not like about the book. I have been amazed at the difference of opinion. I was so fascinated by the discussion of *The Memory*



Keeper's Daughter - some loved the book and some hated it, often for the same reasons, that now when I read the book for the next discussion I am thinking "I wonder what they will say about this one." Each meeting I can hardly wait for the next one. If you would like to join this group please contact Pat Khan or Marlene Lamb for more information about meeting places and times.

Some of the other AAUW branches in our area have many more book groups than we do. If you are interested in starting a new book group with yet another format or one with focus like only biographies, or social issues, or history, please let me know and we will try to get it started.

-Margaret Bard

End Gender Rating For All Women

One of AAUW's key priorities in the health care reform debate is an end to the discriminatory practice of gender rating. While the Senate's health care reform bill makes some steps in this area, it falls disappointingly short of the ultimate goal.

Under the House bill, insurance companies are banned from charging men and women different premiums for individually-purchased health care plans, and are also banned from charging employers different premiums based on the gender make-up of their workforce. However, the Senate bill fails to provide this protection to businesses with more than 100 workers. As a result, women working for large employers with majority female workforces, like schools, child care providers, health care facilities, and others will continue to face this discriminatory pricing. Similarly, their employers will continue to face significantly higher health care costs simply because they employ more women. As the two bills are merged

into one, contact your members of Congress now to urge them to end this discriminatory practice for all women, regardless of the size of their workplace.

Women should not be subjected to discrimination under any circumstances, let alone based on such factors as the size of their employers or the gender of their coworkers. Gender rating can result in women's monthly premiums ranging from four percent to 48 percent higher than men's, even when under identical coverage. Not only could the Senate bill's arbitrary distinction encourage employers to hire more men than women to avoid higher premiums, it could also stifle job growth for businesses near the 100-person mark that employ a higher proportion of women. In October, a group of 25 senators sent a letter urging their colleagues to end this discriminatory practice for all employers, regardless of size. Urge your members of Congress to do the same.

-Gladys Bernyk

February 2010 AAUW Calendar

- 1 Monday **Board Meeting**, 3:30pm, at the Saratoga Fire Station, corner of Saratoga Ave & Saratoga/Los Gatos Road.
- 2 Tuesday **Conversation in Spanish**, 1:15 pm, Chicken Salsa Restaurant, 12019 Saratoga Sunnyvale Rd, Saratoga. Next to the 76 Gasoline Station at the corner of Prospect and Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd. RSVP to Sharon, 867-0588. Contacts: Sharon Kelkenberg, 867-0588 or Helen Lemmon, 867-0575.
- 3 Wednesday **Independent Women**, 1:00-3:00pm, at the home of Sarah Model, 19445 Mountain Way, Los Gatos. Meet on Austin Way to be driven up to Sarah's home. Barbara Lea will speak on "Health Care Legislation in California and The Nation" Please RSVP to Sarah Model, 354-7819; or Barbara Hawkes, 395-4397; or Joan Kjemtrup, 356-6016.
- 4 Thursday **Trail Clean-Up**. Meet promptly at 9:00am in the Los Gatos Park and Ride lot.
- 5 Friday **Travel**, 7:30pm at The Terraces of Los Gatos in the Main Hall. "Biking Through Europe" Join photographer Jeff Katz and wife, Rudi, as they pedal through France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Ireland in trips taken over the past 11 years, enjoying each country, and its beautiful scenery. Visit small towns, meet friendly people, experience local color and see the countryside on their unhurried trips through each of the five countries. Chair: JoAn Lambert, 867-6237. Co-Chairs: Pat Khan, 741-1616 and Corinne Rathjens, 867-2445.
- 6 Saturday **AAUW-CA Advocate, Charlotte Newhart, to speak locally**. This is a free event that is open to the public. Sponsored by the Interbranch Special Projects Foundation, AAUW. *See page 3 for details about the event.*
- 9 Tuesday **Committee for Homeless Women and Children**, 7:00pm at the home of Nancy Anderson, 13561 Lomond Ct., Saratoga. RSVP: Nancy Anderson, 867-4383. Chair: Pat Khan, 741-1616.
- 10 Wednesday **Let's Do Lunch**, 11:30am at Mint Leaf Cuisine (Asian Fusion Restaurant), 14420 Big Basin Way, Saratoga. For reservations call Hostess and Chair: Clare Baker, 867-2295. Guests and members welcome!
- 11 Thursday **Scenic Hikes and Walks**, meet promptly at 9:00am at Los Gatos Park and Ride lot. Sunol Regional Park-Valentine Hike. Bring your lover or best friend. Five-mile hike up and down beautiful green hills. Wonderful views. Questions? Call Kay Duffy 867-0508 or Jane Bishop 356-7796.
- 16 Tuesday **Conversation in Spanish**, 1:30-2:30 pm, at the home of Nancy Anderson, 13561 Lomond Ct., Saratoga. Contacts: Sharon Kelkenberg, 867-0588 or Helen Lemmon, 867-0575.
- 16 Tuesday **PM Book Review**, 7:30pm, at The Terraces. RSVP to Margaret Ford, 356-5028. Book: *Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, by Jamie Ford. Reviewer: Marlene Lamb. For information call Co-chairs: Pat Khan 741-1616 or Marlene Lamb 356-8441
- 19 Friday **AM Book Review** at 9:30am, at the home of Margaret Bard, 4130 Ashbrook Cir, San Jose. RSVP to Margaret, 377-6625. For information please call Co-Chairs: Barbara Oggerino, 354-5394 or Kathy Cusick, 356-2213.
- 23 Tuesday **Film Buffs**, 1:30 to 3:00pm, at the home of Marlene Lamb, 105 Arroyo Grande Way, Los Gatos. RSVP to Marlene at 356-8441. Chair: Mary Ellen Madden, 408-264-4488.
- 25 Thursday **February General Meeting**. *See front page for details.*
- 25 Thursday **Back By Noon Hike**, meet promptly at 9:00am at Argonaut Center, Saratoga by CVS Drug Store.

Strengthen the Branch Updates

Idea #1

Fundraising suggestion is to ask for a \$1 contribution at the Interest Group meetings.

These funds would be used to strength the branch finances.

Idea #2

Next Year: The color *Grapevine* will continue to be available free online at aauw-lgs.org.

To receive a mailed copy there will be a \$10 charge to offset printing and mailing costs.

Idea #3

We are seeking recipe submissions for a fundraising cookbook.

See the notice on the back page for details.

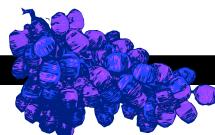


Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch
American Association of University Women
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Saratoga, CA 95070

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February 2010



Grapevine Newsletter Editor, Gail Pedersen; Co-Editor, Courtney Duncan. Calendar Editor, Mary Ellen Madden. Distribution: Lynn Sprague **Final deadline for copy is on the 10th of the month.** Copy to both gail_pedersen@yahoo.com and cduncan447@gmail.com

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Notes & Notices

Directory Corrections

Email Changes:

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252-7369

Please send any corrections or changes in the Directory Information to Barbara Lea, Database Manager at barbara.lea@comcast.net



Memorial Notice

Correction: **Elizabeth Hunter**, a past AAUW Los Gatos-Saratoga branch member, has moved out of the area but has not passed away.

Seeking Recipe Submissions

Fundraising Cookbook

Do you have any delicious, easy, and cost effective recipes to share? These 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.