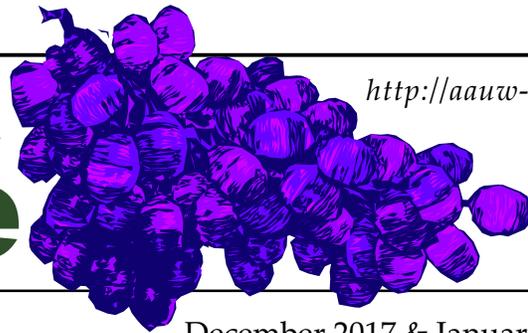


Grapevine



Volume 50, Number 5

December 2017 & January 2018

Still Time to Make Your Reservations. Do It Now!

Author's Luncheon 2018

Meet our Three Local Authors
Fundraiser to Benefit the AAUW Funds

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

The Terraces of Los Gatos, 800 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos

11:00 am No-host Wine Bar | 11:45 am Lunch

\$55 (\$24 tax deductible) | **Make Your Reservations by January 20, 2018.**



Read the author's bios (on page 5) and the reviews of the latest books by our guest authors (on page 6) of this Grapevine issue.



Jana McBurney-Lin



John Bateson



Tracy Guzeman

Women's March 2018 . . .

Hear Our Vote!

Saturday, Jan 20, 2018 | 1:00 am March from City Hall
12 noon Rally at Arena Green East

In 2017, you heard **OUR VOICE**. In 2018, you'll **HEAR OUR VOTE!**

On January 20th we'll come together in downtown San Jose to unify and empower everyone who stands for human rights, civil liberties, and social justice for all. In solidarity with sister marches across California, the U.S. and internationally, we're committing to be informed, engaged and ready to make our votes count in the 2018 election.

MORE DETAILS. *Information continue on the top of page 2.*

Women's March 2018 . . . Hear Our Vote!

Volunteers are working on making **The Women's March 2018** an inspiring and informative launch of empowerment and progress that will continue all year. The organizers of The March appreciate the work AAUW does and welcomes you.

Besides marching, you can join the 100% volunteer-run, grassroots organization in any of the following ways:

1. **Marchers:** Let's show the world that the South Bay celebrates "our diversity" and that we will continue to show up in solidarity with one another. Bring a group of friends, family, coworkers, neighbors to march. Encourage everyone you know to go to [EventBrite](#) and

sign up. AAUW San Jose will be meeting at St. James Park before the march begins at 11:00 am – please join us. The park is a short (8-minute) walk to the march starting point at City Hall. The march route will be approximately 1 mile, from San Jose City Hall to Arena Green East near the SAP Center. Check the AAUW-San Jose Facebook page under 'Events' for any further posted details.

2. **Spread the Word!** We'd be grateful if you would include the event in communications to your organization or other organizations you belong to. Please also follow us on

[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and share our content.

3. **Volunteer!** We'll need lots of volunteers on the day of the march, so please let us know if you're interested in volunteering as a group. Individuals can also sign up to [volunteer](#) on our AAUW San Jose website.
- 4 **Support Us! Donate** to make this march and rally happen and to educate people on issues that impact the welfare of women and our communities. *Note: Normally, AAUW bylaws to not allow branches to fund-raise for other organizations, but individuals might want to contribute on their own. Last year all costs were covered by donations.*

Go to – www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-march-2018-san-jose-tickets-39716001630

Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans

Part 3: The Scale of the Student Debt Problem *(Written for the December 2017 Grapevine issue)*

The resources available to students vary widely across demographics, and the prices of attendance vary widely by institution, and the amount of debt that student accrue varies proportionately.

As student loans have become commonplace, few people have examined the role of gender in how much debt students take on. AAUW's analysis of federal government data has found that **women are more likely to take on debt** (44% of female undergraduates take on debt) compared to men (39% of male undergraduates).

On average **women take on more debt than men** at almost every degree level and type, from associate degrees to doctoral degrees and across institution types.



Women in college take on initial student loan balances that are about 14% greater than men's in a given year. Upon completion of a bachelors degree women's average accrued student debt is about \$1,500 greater than men's, and black women take on more student debt on average than do members of any other group.

The New York Federal Reserve estimates that the **44 million Americans with student loans** held a total amount of student loan debt (both government and private) of \$1.31 trillion in 2016. This amount is greater than that held by Americans as either credit card debt or automobile loan debt and is second only to home mortgages.

The decision to take on student debt can be a complicated one. Most American postsecondary students – 70% — now work while enrolled, and those students must choose between working more hours (and thus earning more) or having more time to devote to their studies. The more students work while enrolled, the less likely they are to graduate, which means that taking out larger loans may be the "right" choice even

Continued on next page at the top.

Continued from page 2 on the bottom. More of Part 3: The Scale of Student Debt Problem

if it means more debt later. In many cases students both work and take out loans.

Students who begin but do not complete a degree program face a “worst of both worlds” outcome, because they may have substantial amounts of debt but lack a degree that would help them secure higher-paying jobs. Men are more likely to drop out than are women and to drop out before taking on as much debt as women. The researchers found that one reason why college completion is more important to women’s incomes is gender occupational segregation. **Women who drop out of college are more**

likely to be employed in lower-paid service or clerical fields, while men who drop out are more likely to work in the higher-paid fields of manufacturing, construction, and transportation. There are fewer good jobs available to women without a college degree.

Note: The full report on this AAUW research study is available on the AAUW national website.



Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans

Part 4: Individual Consequences of Student Debt *(Written for the January 2018 Grapevine issue)*

Following graduation, **women repay their loans more slowly than do men**, in part because of the gender pay gap. Women working full time with college degrees make 26% less than their male counterparts, though the gap is somewhat smaller immediately after college (18% one year after graduation and 20% four years after graduation). Lower pay means less income to devote to debt repayment.

In the time period between one and four years after graduation, men paid off an average of 38% of their outstanding debt, while women paid off only 31% of their outstanding debt. The pace of repayment was particularly slow for black and Hispanic women, as well as for men in those groups.

Difficulty repaying student loans is also reflected in **default rates, which are higher for women** than for men, and much higher for black and Hispanic borrowers than for white and Asian borrowers. Graduates who are still repaying loans four years after college are less likely than graduates without loan payments to be able to meet such essential expenses as rent or mortgage payments, utility bills or important medical care.

Struggling to repay student loans exacts a toll. Among college graduates interviewed four years

after graduation, 45% of women reported high or very high stress levels connected to their student loan debt compared to 34% of men. The pressure of student debt repayment can mean that borrowers make different life and career decisions as well: delaying buying house, taking a less desirable job, not contributing to a retirement plan or account.

Student loan debt is **not just a problem for young people**. Enrollment in undergraduate institutions for the first time at a nontraditional age, additional degrees, and parent loans all result in student loan debt for Americans who are well past traditional college student age. In total, Americans aged 50 or older owe 18% of outstanding student debt, and Americans over age 60 owe 5% of outstanding student debt.

Though some students regret attending college and borrowing in order to do so, most who complete their degrees do not. Women are just as likely as men to say that **their education was worth the cost** despite larger loans, slower repayment, great impacts on their life choices, and greater risk of default. Women are still enrolling and graduating at higher rates than men, and borrowing and repaying larger loans than men. That women continue to do so speaks to a dedication to education as a pathway to opportunity, but our system of higher education should not be a source of major financial risk for vulnerable students. We can do better.

Note: The full report on this AAUW research study is available on the AAUW national website.



Membership Updates – AAUW Has Many Ways to Attract Members

There are many reasons people choose to join AAUW. Some join our branch primarily to support the AAUW mission to “advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.” Some want to know more about the research AAUW has produced and the various ways that research can be put into action. Others are looking for opportunities to get together socially in a small group to discuss books, enjoy lunch, go hiking, or play bridge.

Some members are quite active and take on a leadership role, while others provide financial support for local projects like Tech Trek, Scholarships, or the Committee on Homeless Women and Children. All members can easily keep in touch with AAUW simply by reading the *Grapevine* or checking our website.

AAUW “Half-Year” Membership is Now Available!

Starting January 1, the **cost of a national AAUW membership** is only \$24.50 for the rest of the program year instead of the regular cost of \$49. The annual dues for California AAUW (\$20) and for our Los Gatos-Saratoga branch (\$20) do not change. This means that new members only pay \$64.50 for a membership that extends through June 30, 2018.

This may be the perfect time to invite friends or neighbors to join AAUW. They would support the goal of AAUW to “advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research” and enjoy our many committees and small groups and general programs. We would hope that new members see the value in joining AAUW and will continue their membership after the initial half-year.

We will have membership packets at the English Tea on January 30, or contact Virginia Turner at (408) 866-4234 or by email at vturner@sbcglobal.net. Visit our branch website www.aauw-lgs.org.
–Virginia Turner, Membership V.P.

Thank
YOU!

Whatever YOUR reason for joining AAUW, we thank you for being a member of the Los Gatos-Saratoga branch of AAUW! If you have any ideas for how the branch can be made better, please let us know.

Perhaps you have friends or family members who would like to know more about AAUW. For membership forms and more information, contact Virginia Turner at (408) 866-4234 or by email vturner@sbcglobal.net or visit our branch website www.aauw-lgs.org.
–Virginia Turner, Membership V.P.



Fictionalized Story Based on His Life . . .



Hi-Dong Chai

A native of Seoul, Korea, **Hi-Dong Chai** was educated in the United States. He received a Ph.D. in electrical engineering. After working nineteen years for IBM, he taught electrical engineering at San Jose State University for fifteen years.

Hi-Dong (*a leading authority of magnetic actuator design*) is the author/coauthor of 40 technical papers. He's the inventor/co-inventor 52 inventions that were either published in the IBM Invention Disclosure bulletin or filed for U.S. patents.

Since retiring in 2002, as one who had lived through the four political systems and the two wars, Hi-Dong has directed his time and efforts to writing his life stories.

In 2012 *Blossoms and Bayonets*, co-authored with Jana McBurney-Lin (*see next page*), was published. Jana turned the life of his family under Japan during World War II into a historical novel. His first book, *Shattered by the Wars*, a story of his family during WWII under Japan and during the Korean War was published by Christine Anderson Publishing. Currently, Hi-Dong is working on his American story, *First Seven Years in America*.

Preview of the 2018 Author's Luncheon Speakers

Benefiting AAUW Funds

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

The Terraces of Los Gatos, 800 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos

11:00 am No-host Wine Bar | 11:45 am Lunch

\$55 (\$24 tax deductible) | Make Your Reservations by **January 20, 2018.**



About the Authors . . .



Jana McBurney-Lin

Jana McBurney-Lin lived in Asia for fifteen years, writing for media, that includes National Public Radio, Writer's Digest, Singapore Straits Times, Japan Times, and dozens of others. As an editor in Tokyo, Japan, she met her husband, a native of southern China. They moved to Singapore and frequently visited his family in Fujian province, China. During visits she conceived an idea for her first novel, *My Half of the Sky* (published twelve years later).

That debut book came to Korean-born Dr. Hi-Dong Chai attention, (they belonged to the same writer's group). He approached Jana about helping him write his story of growing up in Seoul, Korea during WWII under Japanese occupation. Published in 2012, *Blossoms and Bayonets* is that historical novel.

Jana lives in the Santa Cruz mountains with her husband and one of their four children. (*The others have flown the nest.*) She's a dedicated participant in the Bay Area writing community. She served five years as President of the Peninsula Branch, founded the Writers Camp for Kids, and volunteers annually in local schools to teach creative writing.



John Bateson

John Bateson graduated from UC Berkeley. His wife, Suzan, is executive director of the Alameda County Community Food Bank. They have four children.

In 1996 Bateson was chosen to carry the Olympic torch. Earlier in his career he worked as a freelance editor. Bateson also reviewed biographies, novels, and books on environmental and social issues for the San Francisco Review of Books, and Pacific Sun Magazine.

John Bateson was the executive director of three university-run counseling centers, an assistant director of a two-county social service agency and the executive director of a nationally certified crisis intervention and suicide prevention center in the San Francisco Bay Area for sixteen year. Since 2013 his primary focus has been writing. He is the author of three previous books – *The Last and Greatest Battle*, *The Final Leap*, and *Building Hope*.

The Education of a Coroner: Lessons in Investigating Death is his latest (nonfiction) book. "*Stranger than fiction stories [told] with a novelist's flair.*" –Publisher's Weekly



Tracy Guzeman

Tracy Guzeman was born in Aurora, Illinois. Currently she lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is a member of Women's National Book Association (WNBA), San Francisco Chapter. Tracy found the publishing journey "illuminating." But feels incredibly fortunate. "*I've benefitted from the generosity of many other writers in the Bay Area who have been beyond gracious in offering advice and support, and in sharing their own experiences.*"

Tracy has been a lifelong story teller and has for many years written short stories. Tracy's short fiction has been published in *Vestal Review*, *Glimmer Train*, and *Gulf Coast*, where her story, "Einstein," received honorable mention for the Donald Barthelme Prize for Short Prose. She was a featured author for the 2014 Twitter Fiction Festival, and is a Pushcart Prize nominee. Her work has been performed by both *Stories on Stage* and the *New Short Fiction Series*.

Tracy Guzeman's debut novel, *The Gravity of Birds*, was published by Simon & Schuster in 2013, with translation rights sold in eleven other countries. She is currently working on her second novel.

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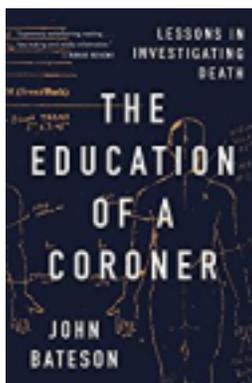


About the Books . . .



The time is 1942, the place, Japanese-occupied Seoul, Korea. Fifteen-year-old He-Seung is full of fire, ready to take on these Japanese... if only he could convince his father, a Christian minister more concerned about saving his flock in a time when Emperor-worship has become mandatory. Since occupation, the Japanese have eradicated the Korean language, names, even the country's flower. Now they are seeking Korean boys as volunteers for their army. When his father is arrested by the Japanese, however, He-Seung must swallow his hatred of the enemy and volunteer for the military.

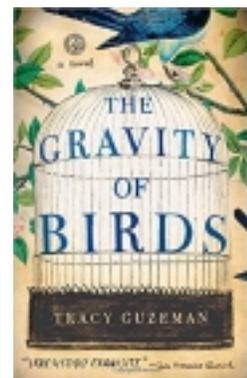
Jana McBurney-Lin (coauthor), the award-winning author of *My Half of the Sky*, and Hi-Dong Chai (coauthor) turn their hands to a remarkable story (based on his life and family) of a family and country torn apart by outside forces that in the end speaks volumes about the power of faith. *Blossoms & Bayonets* is suffused with the tense atmosphere of the period. The story lends an eyewitness perspective to events as they unfold. Revealing an era of nuance and complexity.



John Bateson has a new nonfiction book, *The Education of a Coroner: Lessons in Investigating Death*. He writes about Ken Holmes, the longtime coroner of Marin County, has seen it all, from celebrity deaths to those that are mysterious and bizarre. He knows nearly everything there is to know about the art and science of forensic investigation, including how to find telltale clues at a death scene, uncover secrets during an autopsy, and notify next of kin with compassion.

Holmes handled many high-profile cases during his long career (*the death of rock legend Jerry Garcia, a homicide involving rapper Tupac Shakur, the shooting of porn king Artie Mitchell by his brother Jim and the Mount Tamalpais murders by the infamous Trailside Killer*) but it was the deaths of people who weren't well known that are, in many respects, the most fascinating.

The work of coroners is different than what is on Television. Few people know anything about it until a coroner knocks on their door and delivers news that changes their lives forever.



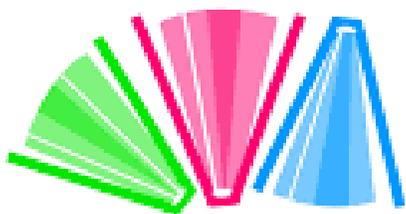
How do you find someone who wants to be lost? Sisters Natalie and Alice Kessler were close, until adolescence wrenched them apart. Natalie is headstrong, manipulative—and beautiful; Alice is a dreamer who loves books and birds.

During their family's summer holiday at the lake, Alice falls under the thrall of a struggling young painter, Thomas Bayber. Natalie, however, remains strangely unmoved, sitting for a family portrait with surprising indifference. Three lives are shattered at summer's end.

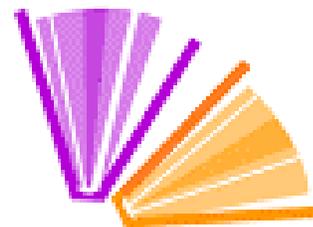
Decades later, Bayber, now a reclusive, world-renowned artist, unveils a never-before-seen work, Kessler Sisters—a provocative painting depicting the young Thomas, Natalie, and Alice. Bayber asks Dennis Finch, an art history professor, and Stephen Jameson, an eccentric young art authenticator, to sell the painting for him. But first they must locate Natalie and Alice, who seem to have vanished.

In *The Gravity of Birds* histories and memories refuse to stay buried; in the end only the excavation of the past will enable its survivors to love again.

Los Gatos-Saratoga – American Association of University Women



Meet Our Three Local Authors



Benefiting AAUW FUNDS Authors' Luncheon 2018

Tuesday, January 30, 2018 | 11:00 am – 2:30 pm
The Terraces of Los Gatos (800 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos)

Meet our three authors and have them autograph their books



Jana McBurney-Lin



John Bateson



Tracy Guzeman

Jana McBurney-Lin, author of *Blossoms and Bayonets: A Story of Love, Faith and Courage Under Japanese Occupation* (Historical fiction drawing on Hi-Dong Chai's early life in Korea)

John Bateson, author of *The Education of a Coronor* (Biography of Marin County Coronor, Ken Holmes)

Tracy Guzeman, author of *The Gravity of Birds* (Fiction – first full length novel)

Invite your friends to a delightful afternoon of good food and interesting book talk

No/host wine bar will open at 11:00 am; lunch will be served at 11:45 am

Open Seating – tables of eight

Cost is \$55.00 per person, (\$24.00 is tax deductible)

Luncheon – Choice of Entrée, a Garden Salad, choice of Coffee, Soda, Iced Tea, and Tiramisu for dessert

Choice of Entrées – (1) Chicken Picatta; (2) Salmon with Orange Hollandaise Sauce; (3) Vegetarian Lasagna

Make Check Payable to **AAUW FUNDS** and include your menu choice with your check.

Send the Names of your Guests and their Entrée Choices as well

Mail to **Eleanor Yick**, 105 Stacia St, Los Gatos, 95030 | Tel. 408-354-7473

(Include your email to receive a confirmation that your check has been received)

Reservations with payment must be received by **January 20, 2018** to guarantee your attendance!

Universal Design Suggestions

Our November 15 meeting with Lisa Sten and the talented team from Harrell Remodeling, Inc. provided a wealth of information for anyone who wants to make



her home more accessible and user-friendly for anyone, regardless of age or mobility concerns. As developed by the NC State University College of Design, the principles of Universal Design are these:

1. **Equitable Use:** The design is **useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities**, such as power doors with sensors and adaptable seating.
2. **Flexibility in Use:** The design accommodates a **wide range of individual preferences and abilities**. One example is a pair of scissors designed for right-or-left-handed users.
3. **Simple and Intuitive Use:** The design is **easy to understand**, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level. Some examples are a moving sidewalk or escalator in a public space and an instruction manual with drawings and no text.
4. **Perceptible Information:** The design **communicates necessary information effectively** to the user. This could be tactile, visual and audible cues and instruction on a thermostat or messages in airports, train stations and subway cars.
5. **Tolerance for Error:** The design **minimizes hazards** and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions. Some examples are double-cut car keys that can be inserted in either direction and an "undo" feature in computer software.
6. **Low Physical Effort:** The design can be used **efficiently and comfortably**, such as lever or loop handles on doors and faucets and "touch lamps" operated without a switch.

7. **Size and Space for Approach and Use:** **Appropriate size and space is provided** for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture or mobility. Some examples are wide gates at subway stations and controls on the front of appliances and clear floor space around appliances.

Many modifications can be made in an existing home **without major remodeling**. The first step in assessing your own residence – go from your car into and through your house while pulling a suitcase on wheels. *Where do you have problems? How can you change those?* Perhaps an **inclined ramp** could be incorporated into the landscaping for easier access through at least one entry. *Can you find a way to provide a "zero step" entry?* Attractive **handrails** could be installed along stairways, inside or out, and a **contrasting edge along the steps** may help define the edges and avoid dangerous missteps. Be sure you have **good lighting**. **Area rugs and electric cords** are potential problems if they intrude on areas where you regularly walk, due to tripping or slipping hazards. Round **door hardware** can be replaced with levers or oval handles that may be easier to use. **Narrow doorways** might be improved with swing-away hinges which give a little wider opening. There are now **faucets** that can be operated hands-free or with a foot pedal. *If you have a two-story house, can you live on one floor?* If not, perhaps you can incorporate an elevator into your home, or look into the powered stair lifts that might be suitable.

If you are **considering remodeling**, of course, you can incorporate any number of Universal Design elements. **In the kitchen**, you can customize the height of your counters, provide wide aisles, put electric outlets at better heights and in multiple locations, install cabinets with plenty of accessible storage for the items you use most frequently. **In the bathroom**, you can create a curbless shower, install a wall-hung toilet and make sure there is ample space for someone in a wheelchair, put grab bars in as many places as they are needed, move the shower controls away from the wall directly under the shower head, and make the sink accessible for someone in a wheelchair.



As our presenters showed, Universal Design can be very attractive and can be good for everyone!

Spotlight on AAUW-CA Public Policy

Step Up for Women's Health Rights 2018

January 22, 2018, is the 45th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to confirm women's right to terminate a pregnancy. However, health rights, especially reproductive rights, face considerably more pressure on the established law since the beginning of 2017.

To remind members, AAUW-CA advocates for equality, individual rights and social justice for a diverse society, including self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions and increased access to **safe, affordable, and comprehensive** health care and family planning services, including expansion of patient rights.

What has happened this year?

First, after months of deliberation Jane Doe, a "minor undocumented immigrant" was allowed to terminate her pregnancy. Still, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has more workers concerned with anti-abortion issues, and Solicitor General Noel Francisco's stance on the law has led to justices resigning in the DOJ. The government does not have to "facilitate" the law and instances of an "undue burden" have changed.

Second, Congress exerted influence to change the law during the fight

this summer over the Affordable Care Act. Since then, September 15 Pro-Life actions in Michigan against FACE (Federal Access to Clinic Entrances - 1994) leaves advocates unsure whether the Attorney General will enforce the law or leave it to each state. Fortunately for California, the law is enforced.

Third, on Tuesday, October 3, an ACLU lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Hawaii on behalf of Kauai argues medication abortion should be offered by prescription at the local drugstore. It challenges a restriction imposed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that requires mifepristone, known by the brand name Mifeprex, to be dispensed in clinics, doctors' offices, and hospitals—rather than a pharmacy.

Fourth, on October 7, with a lawsuit submitted on October 31, the HHS undermined women's reproductive rights by rolling back the Affordable Care Act rule that required most employers and universities to provide insurance coverage for birth control. Now, access can be denied for "religious and moral reasons."

Good news! In an October 20, 2017 report by the **National Institute for Reproductive Health**, clinics in four California cities out of 40 major American cities meet standards for quality reproductive health, rights, and justice politics. Los Angeles and San Francisco receive 4.5 stars; San Diego – 3 stars; and San Jose - 2.5 stars.

How are women are affected by Congress' current tax bill?

As of December 2, the bill includes changes in child care credits, student loan payback, medical bills, a federal ban on abortion after 20 weeks of conception, like in Texas (or perhaps 6 weeks), college savings plans allowed for the unborn child (aligned with the HHS call that life begins at conception), and more restrictions on contraception.

The tax bill will change before it is sent to the president for signature, but members of AAUW-CA must keep their eye on the details of each sentence. Since *Roe v. Wade* was decided, states have **passed** more than 1,000 restrictions on women's reproductive rights. *The Progressive*, March 25, 2017

–Claire Noonan, Los Altos-Mountain View AAUW-CA

IBC Report – Strong Start #6

To remind every AAUW member, Santa Clara County Inter Branch Council and each AAUW of the county's seven branches supports Strong Start, the county action group begun by the Santa Clara County Office of Education.

Strong Start's mission is to ensure that all children age 0 to 8 in Santa Clara County have access to high quality early care and education opportunities.

As public policy, AAUW advocates support for a strong system of high-quality public education and adequate

and equitable funding for all students, including pre-school.

At the November Strong Start meeting, participants learned that the "Early Learning Master Plan" (ELMP) for Santa Clara County has been finalized. The plan addresses challenges in six major areas of the ECE system currently serving pre-school children. The main goal is Access – to expand local funding for ECE

Continued on page 10 at the bottom of the page.

My Turn at Tech Trek Camp

In the summer of 2010 my daughter, Jennifer, was the beneficiary of Los Gatos – Saratoga AAUW's generosity with a scholarship to **Tech Trek's** Camp Hopper. Jennifer came back from camp with many stories of the wonderful experience that she had and a renewed determination to continue her interest in math and science learning. Then in 2017 my turn came to go to camp as a volunteer dorm mom. And what an experience it was!

Perhaps you went to summer camp as a youngster? If so, you may remember a hard mattress, unexciting food, and too little sleep. Yes, we had all that at Camp Hopper '17 too. And we also had about eighty middle school girls who were excited about math and science and the adventure of camp. Each day after breakfast the girls headed to a core class in marine biology, forensics, cybersecurity, app development, or engineering design while the dorm moms and camp directors met to review logistics for the day and work through any problems. Lunch was followed by a field trip,

a hands-on activity, a talk, or perhaps fountain hopping (yes, we made time for some fun!). Then it was dinner, followed by still another activity. By the end of the week the girls had learned about astronomy, the math and software behind popular Pixar movies, personal finance, principles of building structures, career options for women, and much more.

My week at **Tech Trek** reminded me that middle school girls can be a lot of fun. It also gave me a strong sense of optimism about the future. These girls are smart, conscientious students who are eager to tackle the world's problems. In a short week, **Tech Trek** gives them a boost of confidence and instills an important message about following their interest in math and science, even when it gets hard and the boys seem to take over. My bet is that these girls will be more successful than we can imagine and we can be proud of having helped by sending them to **Tech Trek**.

–Cynthia Miller, Tech Trek Chair

continued **IBC Report – Strong Start #6**

This article is continue from page 9 at the bottom of the page.

services. A plan to put a county initiative on the ballot in the 2018 elections was described in Strong Start #5 which was written to include in an earlier newsletter.

In addition, Fred Ferrer, De Anza Community College faculty and lead developer of the "Early Childhood Concierge Model for Universal Access," presented the project to provide a calculated collaboration of

the many groups in the county supporting various aspects of early childhood services.

In a cycle model, the 'concierge,' one of several managers of the project, would 1) address a family looking for one or many services (like food

The Reads for PM Book Group!

7:30 pm, Saratoga Retirement Community

January's Book

Book: "*A Rainbow Comes and Goes*"
 Authors: Anderson Cooper and Gloria Vanderbilt
 Reviewer: Beata Ng



Gloria Vanderbilt & Anderson Cooper

February's Book

Book: "*Lucky Boy*"
 Authors: Shanti Sekaran
 Reviewer: Roberta London



Shanti Sekaran

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

"Service to youth is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on earth."

— Jane Deeter Rippin

January 2018 AAUW Calendar

- 2 Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets 1:30-3:00 pm at Nancy Anderson's home (1639 Daphne Drive, San Jose). Join us to develop, maintain, or improve your conversational skills. RSVP: Nancy Anderson, (408) 348-3427. Chair: Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656.
- 5 Friday **Armchair Travel Adventures. My Trip to Tibet,** presented by Yao Pi Hsu. Tibet is a unique land of people who live in a high mountain country of stark beauty. We will visit many old Buddhist temples, and walk around Lhasa and see the Potala lit up at night. Meets 7:30 pm at The Terraces (800 Blossom Hill Rd., Los Gatos). Chair: JoAn Lambert, (408) 867-6237.
- 8 Monday **Board Meeting.** NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE. Meets 4:00 pm at the Saratoga Fire Station, Community Room (corner of Saratoga Ave & Saratoga/Los Gatos Rd.)
- 9 Tuesday **Committee for Homeless Women and Children.** Meets 3:30-4:30 pm at Nancy Anderson's home (1639 Daphne Dr, San Jose). RSVP: Chair, Nancy Anderson, (408) 348-3427.
- 14 Thursday **Scenic Hikes and Walks – UVAS CANYON WATERFALLS.** Hike up the canyon past numerous beautiful falls, then loop through the oak forest to the viewpoint picnic table. Bring lunch. Meet promptly! 9:00 A.M. Los Gatos, in Free parking-Northside lot, behind Starbucks. Questions? Jane Bishop, (408) 356-7796; Kay Duffy, (408) 867-0508.
- 16 Tuesday **PM Book Group.** Meets 7:30 pm, Saratoga Retirement Community (14500 Fruitvale Ave, Saratoga). RSVP: Marilyn Lenormand, (408) 741-7820. Book: "A Rainbow Comes and Goes" by Anderson Cooper and Gloria Vanderbilt. Chair: Marlene Lamb, (408) 497-1555.
- 17 Wednesday **Let's Do Lunch.** Meets at 12:30 pm. Join us for great conversation and fun. Contact Chair, Joanna Yates, for more information, 408-395-2950. **Join Our Friendly Group.**
- 19 Friday **AM Book Review.** Meets at 9:30 am. Bring a book (good or bad) you would like to talk about. For meeting location, contact chair Margaret Bard (408) 377-6625 or margaretbard@gmail.com. **Come and Find Your Next Great Read!**
- 23 Tuesday **Film Buffs.** NOTE DATE CHANGE because of Authors' Lunch. Meets at 1:30 pm at Vicki Feigelson's home (20075 Seagull Way, Saratoga). RSVP: Vicki Feigelson, 408-358-2262. Chair: Marlene Lamb, (408) 497-1555. **All Movie Lovers Welcome!**
- 23 Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets 1:30-3:00 pm Nancy Anderson's home (1639 Daphne Drive, San Jose), Join us to develop, maintain or improve your conversational skills. RSVP: Nancy Anderson, (408) 348-3427. Chair: Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656. **New Members and Visitors are Welcome.**
- 25 Thursday **Back-by-Noon Hike.** Walk and talk with friends. Meet promptly! 9:00 A.M. Saratoga at Argonaut Center way out in front of CVS. Questions? Jane Bishop, (408) 356-7796; Kay Duffy, (408) 867-0508. **New Hikers Welcome!**
- 30 Tuesday **Authors' Luncheon 2018.** 11:00 am-2:30 pm, the Terraces of Los Gatos (800 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos). Meet three authors and have them autograph their books. Cost including lunch \$55.00 (\$24.00 is tax deductible). See flyer on page 7 or call Eleanor Yick, 408-354-7473.

February 2018

- 1 Thursday **Scenic Hikes and Walks.** Trail Cleanup. Meet promptly 9:00 am! Los Gatos, in Free parking—Northside lot, behind Starbucks. Questions? Jane Bishop, (408) 356-7796 or Kay Duffy, (408) 867-0508. **New Hikers Welcome!**
- 5 Monday **Board Meeting.** Meets 3:00 pm at the Saratoga Fire Station, Community Room (corner of Saratoga Ave & Saratoga/Los Gatos Rd.)
- 6 Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets 1:30-3:00 pm at Nancy Anderson's home (1639 Daphne Dr, San Jose). Join us to develop, maintain, or improve your conversational skills. RSVP to Nancy Anderson, (408) 348-3427. Chair: Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656. **New Members and Visitors are Welcome.**
- 8 Thursday **Scenic Hikes and Walks.** VALENTINE'S DAY LIVERMORE RAMBLE. Bring your lover or best friend on this easy hike along a lovely creek-side trail to picnic (and tasting) at Wentle winery. Meet promptly! 9:00 am in Los Gatos in free parking-Northside lot, behind Starbucks.



Dec 2017 & Jan 2018

Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch
American Association of University Women
14415 Evans Lane
Saratoga, CA 95070

Return Service Requested

Periodical
US Postage
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Saratoga, CA
USPS 061-770



Grapevine Newsletter Editor, Gail Pedersen; Proofreader, Ann Griffin; Calendar Editor, Ann Griffin; **The final deadline is the 10th of the month.** Email to anngriffin107@gmail.com and gail_pedersen@yahoo.com

Grapevine (USPS 061-770) Published monthly, except July and August, by Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch of American Association of University Women. Periodical postage paid at Saratoga, CA 95070-9998. **POSTMASTER:** send address changes to *Grapevine*, 14415 Evans Lane, Saratoga, CA 95070



Holiday Party for Homeless Women

In December the Members of the Committee on Homeless Women and Children hosted the annual holiday party for homeless women at the Georgia Travis Center in San Jose. A hot meal started the festivities, and then the women unwrapped their presents (*4 gifts for each woman*) which included such welcome items as warm hoodies, scarves and gloves. Finally the women selected jewelry from the items left after last year's English Tea. This is a huge treat for all of the women.

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts for the women, helped wrap the packages, or helped prepare and serve the dinner. Your generosity certainly "made the season bright" for these women.

-Marlene Lamb, Committee on Homeless Women and Children



Pictured left to right, Ann Roberts, Marlene Lamb, JoAn Lambert, Nancy Anderson, and Sumi Tanabe of the Homeless Committee.