

March 2015 General Meeting

Microfinance Changes Lives – A Few Dollars at a Time

Friday, March 27, 2015; 10 am to 12 Noon

in the Community Room, Saratoga Library (13650 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga)

Our Speaker – Brynne Speizer of the Opportunity Fund – will explain how small loans and small savings accounts, combined with financial training and donor matches, can provide a real hand up for local women and families.

- **Microloans** — the median loan is only \$6,000 — are about more than the dollars; they provide a chance to succeed.
- **Microsavings** accounts – 70% of which are held by women — open the door to college and to financial stability.



Small amounts of money and financial advice can help people make permanent and lasting change in their own lives, driving economic mobility and building stronger communities.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Coming Next Month . . .

English Tea & Silent Auction

Join us for Tea & Talk



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.

Letter from the President

March is celebrated as **Women's History Month**. AAUW members can be proud of the role that our organization has played in supporting women and girls since our founding in 1882. AAUW researches a wide range of issues relating to women's education and employment opportunities, awards millions of dollars to women to pursue higher education and community action programs, and works with Congress and state legislatures to enact legislation promoting equity for women and girls.

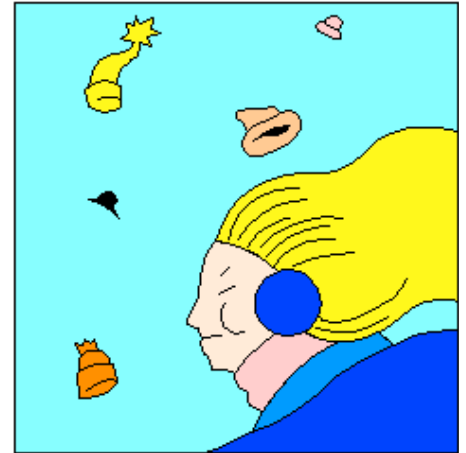
Our Los Gatos-Saratoga branch began in 1941 with a total of 21 charter members. As the area became "*Silicon Valley*" and its population grew, membership in AAUW also grew, and there were 472 members by our 45th anniversary in 1986. But significant societal changes had also occurred in that time. More women were graduating from college and entering the work force rather than staying at home. They entered professions like engineering and medicine that were not traditionally held by women. Their interests changed, affiliations shifted, and perhaps they sensed that the struggle for

women's equity had been won because more women were elected to public office, women had become astronauts, the first woman was appointed to the Supreme Court.

All those changes – and more – have had an impact on AAUW membership which has steadily declined since that time. **How serious is this?** When I joined this branch in 2000, there were about 285 members; by 2008 this had fallen to about 225, and most recently about 160. Ours is not the only branch to face this decline, nor is AAUW the only organization that is struggling to maintain and grow its membership.

We need to think about our branch priorities and figure out how we can both maintain our membership and recruit new members. **Where do YOU see Los Gatos-Saratoga AAUW going in the next several years?**

By now you should have received a survey I mailed to all the members. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it to me. The Board will use the results to help plan the programs and activities for the next year. We want AAUW to meet your expect-



tations and priorities so that you will want to participate and help spread the word about what AAUW is and what AAUW does.

Thank you for being a member of AAUW, and thank you for returning your survey.

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

“It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union.”

–Susan B. Anthony



“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

–Eleanor Roosevelt

Women's



Attend These Two Programs

Celebrating Our Diverse Community

AAUW will be participating in two events during March which are **Open to the Public**.

Women, Sexuality, and Power:

What are Young People Learning?

This first event will involve viewing the documentary film *Miss Representation*, followed by a panel discussion including an AAUW member.

This program stems from a number of situations that take place on all high school campuses that foster the subjection of young women in our society. The film shows how the media portrays the value of women and girls' as being only in their youth, beauty and sexuality. If you haven't seen the documentary film – *Miss Representation*, come and bring a young woman in your life.

Celebrating International Women's Day

Sunday, March 8

1:00 to 3:00 pm

at Prospect High School (18900 Prospect Rd, Saratoga)

In April of 2012, I attended the AAUW-CA State Convention in Santa Clara and saw the screening of *Miss Representation*.

"I was frankly overwhelmed by the media assault on women and girls. Thinking it over, I saw it primarily as an equity issue with women and girls treated in a pejorative manner and judged by standards not applied to men and boys." –Gail Pedersen

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Sponsored by Prospect High School.

For information contact Dr. Vince Leeburn at (408) 626-3408 ext. 8111



Annual Saratoga Blossom Festival

The second community event is the annual **Saratoga Blossom Festival!**

Saturday, March 21, 2015

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

at Heritage Orchard and the area near Civic Center

(13777 Fruitvale Ave, Saratoga)

Los Gatos-Saratoga AAUW will have a table with information about AAUW so stop by and enjoy the flowers!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Homeless Committee – Sunday Friends Program Report

Visit to Sunday Friends! We got a first-hand view of their program at Lowell Elementary School. The school buzzed with activities and was packed with families and volunteers. *(They work with poor families at three elementary schools.)*

There are classes and activities for children and adults. A range of class topics include: **Art, Music, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)** and **Path to College – Counseling Sessions**. A popular class – **Drivers Licenses and Car Insurance** – was being taught in both Spanish and English.

Health and Dental stations were set up. Children and adults learn about healthy diets and how to prepare healthy meals. All participants earn **Sunday Friends' Money**. They have both a store and a bank.

We took a donation of shampoo and conditioner to help out. **Sunday Friends** need volunteers and can always use donations to their store. **To help** – you can contact them at (408) 793-0441, or sundayfriends.org

Sunday Friends' Donations? The Homeless Committee will make sure they get your generous help. Call Pat with questions or to donate, (408) 741-1616.

Make Your Reservations! The English Tea and Silent Auction on April 25, 2015 is hosted by The Homeless Committee and Local Scholarship Committee. *(See page 5 for information about attending.)*

How can you help? We need jewelry and event tickets for the Silent Auction at the English Tea.

–Pat Khan, Chair of Homeless Committee

English Tea and Silent Auction

Join us for Tea & Talk

Benefit for the Homeless Women and Children ♦ Local Scholarships

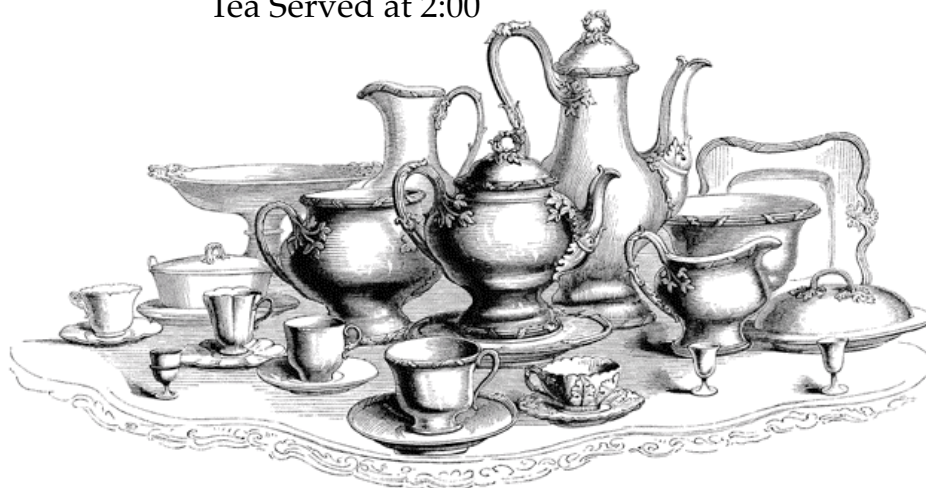
Saturday, April 25, 2015

2:00 – 4:00

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

Doors open for Auction Viewing at 1:00

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)



We Urgently Need You to Participate!

Seeking Members for Nominating Committee

Let us know if you can serve on the nominating committee. Contact Virginia Turner, the chair of the Nominating Committee, for more information vturner@sbcglobal.net; 408-866-4234.

Also we want to hear from you if you know a member who is a leader and can serve as an elected officer for next year.

There are many roles to play in the branch. Consider becoming a board member. When the committee calls, step up and help make the branch work for all members.

Save the Date**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)

We've been busy all year raising money to help provide educational opportunities for women and girls. Come and meet our Tech Trek campers and our Local Scholarship recipients.

Enjoy our 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.

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

Questions? Contact Virginia Turner by email, vturner@sbcglobal.net or by phone, (408) 866-4234.

AAUW Morgan Hill**32nd Annual Wildflower Run**

Sunday, March 29, 2015

Fundraiser for AAUW Funds, Tech Trek, and Local Scholarships for women and girls

10K Run, 5K Run/Walk/Stroller
2K Run for Kids

Family and Group rates

Live Oak High School in Morgan Hill.

Reduced registration fees through March 19

Free Jamba Juice Smoothies and T-shirts Details and registration at www.WildflowerRun.org

Register online at racemine.com or active.com or by mail

**Notes from Board Meeting****From the February 2, 2015 Board Meeting**

- **Old Business** – Review of Author's Luncheon on January 21, 2015. Interesting authors, venue not the greatest, sound system poor. Attendance lower than previous years.
- **Upcoming programs** – **February 19** Alzheimers program is finalized and refreshments arranged. **April 18** Potluck speaker will be Elizabeth Manzi (civil engineer + grant recipients) on the topic of susceptibility. **April 25** English Tea has tickets available. Soon deciding on table size.
- **Community events** with branch participation – **Feb 23** invited to **Women in Politics** at Campbell Community Center. Featured women city council members and sponsored by LWV, Southwest Santa Clara Valley branch. **March 8** viewing of documentary film **Miss Representative** at Prospect High School. **March 21** invited to **Saratoga Blossom Festival** at Heritage Orchard/near Civic Center in Saratoga. Branch will have a table at the event.
- **Interbranch Council** – May 31 is the Ice Cream Social at Cambrian Library. Reported by Margaret Bard via email.
- **Member Survey** sent by Virginia Turner. *What should the branch be doing? Why do you remain members of branch? How many programs should we have?* The results will help with planning programs and recruitment for next year.

Hosted by the History Club of Los Gatos

Foodies Delight – A World of Taste

Calling all Ladies who Lunch!

On Wednesday, April 22, 2015 “A World of Taste” features culinary treats from around the world, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at 123 Los Gatos Blvd, Los Gatos. Interesting International displays and ethnic foods will be featured. **Cost is \$25.**

For tickets – contact Therese Wiese, (408) 226-6365, or go online at tickets@historyclublosgatos.org

The History Club of Los Gatos is hosting this exciting fundraising event at their beautiful site to benefit the **San Jose branch of AAUW's Gifts for Teens (GFT)** holiday gift bag project for homeless and low-income teens. Gather a group of friends to enjoy the experience and plan on a fun spring outing! Help support the successful and valuable annual **Gifts for Teens** program.

The History Club of Los Gatos' mission is to support the welfare of women and children, as does AAUW.

–Elaine Benoit,
ebenoit99@yahoo.com

Next Month – April 2015 PM – Book Review Book.

Title: *Persuasion*, by Jan Austin.



Gifts for Teens –

What the Numbers Mean!

In recent *Bonfire* articles, **Gifts for Teens** has announced our successful 2014 goal of filling and distributing a total of 1,380 holiday gift bags to needy Bay Area teens. But there's more to it than just the final number. Of the 1,380 bags, distribution went to the following agencies – 943 to Sacred Heart Community Services (*137 of the 943 being special gift bags*), 292 to Bill Wilson Center, 90 to Unity Care, 37 to Home First, 15 to Advent Group and 3 to extra teens.



Our total cash donor contribution was \$62,513 with \$26,855 from individuals, \$23,623 from Grants/Company Match and fundraisers with \$12,035 as carry over from 2013. Number of people involved during 2014 was 625. This included 265 donors, 328 community volunteers and 32 knitters/bow makers. The numerous students and families from 5 schools that participated in school fund raising or clothing drives was in addition to this total.

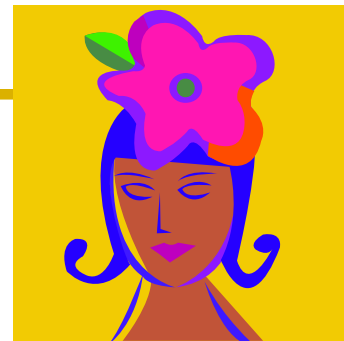
Ninety-eight and a half percent of all donated funds are used to directly benefit the teenagers. As a measure of **Gifts for Teens** fiscal efficiency, for every \$35.00 spent, we delivered \$168.00 worth of bag contents.

But true value of this *Community Action Project* is not in the numbers but in the stories you hear from the agencies about the grateful teens and their families who are recipients of the bags. And that value is priceless.

–Jan Giroux

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

–Anne Frank



March 2015 AAUW Calendar

- 2** Monday **Board Meeting.** Meets 3:30 pm in the Community Room at the Saratoga Fire Station (*corner of Saratoga Ave & Saratoga/Los Gatos Rd*).
- 3** 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: Nancy Anderson, (408) 867-4383. Chair: Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656. **Visitors are welcome!**
- 6** Friday **Travel "Armchair Adventures"** Meets 7:30 pm at The Terraces (*800 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos*). **Patagonia and the Atacama Desert.** Join photographers George and Tamara Mednick on a trip to the vast wild regions of Patagonia – a pristine and sparsely populated land of Andean Mountain peaks, glacial lakes, grassland, steppes, and desert. The Atacama Desert is the second driest place on earth, with brilliantly colored geological formations and quaint Chilean villages. Chair, JoAn Lambert, (408) 867-6237. **Open to the Public.**
- 10** Tuesday **Committee for Homeless Women and Children.** Meets 7:00 pm at Pat Khan's home (*13710 Calle Tacuba, Saratoga*). RSVP to Chair: Pat Khan (408) 741-1616. **All are Welcome!**
- 11** Wednesday **Let's Do Lunch** Meets 12:30 pm at Steamers of Los Gatos. (*31 University Ave, across from Old town*). RSVP – host Carol Greenleaf, (408) 867-5680; New Chair, Joanna Yates, (408) 395-2950. **All members and visitors welcome.**
- 12** Thursday **Scenic – Hikes and Walks. Pleasanton Ridge.** Along the East hills off 680 above Pleasanton. Hike 5 - 6 miles up and along beautiful green hills with wonderful views, wild flowers and olive groves. Bring wildflower books, binoculars and lunch. Meet promptly at 9:00 am, Los Gatos "*Free Parking- Northside Lot*" behind Starbucks. Questions? Jane Bishop, (408) 356-7796 ; Kay Duffy, (408) 867-0508. **Seeking New Walkers!**
- 17** Tuesday **PM Book Group.** Meets 7:30 pm at Saratoga Retirement Community (*14500 Fruitvale Ave, Saratoga*). Book "**The Final Judgment**" by Richard North Patterson. Reviewed by JoAn Lambert. Co-Chairs, Pat Khan, (408) 741-1616; Marlene Lamb, (408) 497-1555.
- 20** Friday **AM Book Review.** Meets 9:30 am. Everyone brings a book (good or bad) she would like to talk about. Call Margaret Bard (408) 377-6625 or margaretbard@gmail.com for more information and meeting location. **New participants welcome!**
- 24** 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: Nancy Anderson, (408) 867-4383. Chair: Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656. **Visitors are welcome!**
- 26** Thursday **Back-by-Noon Hike.** Meets promptly 9:00 am at Argonaut Center, Saratoga (*way out in front of CVS*). Questions? Jane Bishop, (408) 356-7796 ; Kay Duffy, (408) 867-0508.
- 27** Friday **General Meeting. "How Micro-loans are Changing Women's Lives, a Few Dollars at a Time."** Meets 10:00 – 12:00 noon in the Community Room, Saratoga Library. Our speaker is Brynne Speizer, the Opportunity Fund. (*See front page for details*). **Open to the Public!**
- 31** Tuesday **Film Buffs.** Meets 1:30 pm at Mary Ellen Madden's home (*1616 Inglis Lane, San Jose*). Information? Call Mary Ellen, (408) 264-4488. **All members and visitors welcome.**

April 2015

- 6** Monday **Board Meeting.** Meets 3:30 pm in the Community Room at 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*). Help improve or maintain your conversational skills. RSVP: Nancy Anderson, (408) 867-4383. Chair: Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656. **Visitors are welcome!**
- 10** Friday **Travel "Armchair Adventures" Note change of date! "Off the Tourist Route in India"** Presented by Ken Bloomfield. Meets 7:30 pm at The Terraces (*800 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos*). This trip to India took Bloomfield to the far northern states of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, and Kashmir, into the Himalayas and the Dali Lama's home. It is sparsely populated, mainly Buddhist, and it is almost totally lacking natural vegetation because of the high elevation. A unique part of India. **Visitors are Welcome!**

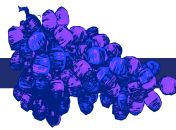


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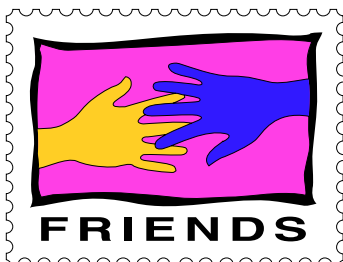
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Women's **HISTORY** **MONTH**

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



Help Recruit New Members!

Who Can Join the Branch?

Capitalize on your relationships and reach out to friends, co-workers, and members of other local organizations. Bring a prospective member to an interest group, general meeting or one of our fundraisers.

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.