

May 2012 General Meeting

Peninsular InterUrban Railway (Los Gatos and Saratoga) and the Installation of New Officers for Next Year!



Thursday, May 10, 2012

7:00 – 9:30 pm

at the Terraces of Los Gatos, 800 Blossom Hill Rd., Los Gatos

Speaker: Ray Cosyn, Saratoga History Museum

History of the South Bay's Railway Service – 1904 to 1963 (to Palo Alto in the north, to Saratoga in the west, to Los Gatos in the south and to Alum Rock Park in the east)

AAUW Keynote Speaker

The Interurban Railway, yearn for the days of a trip by rail to San Jose or Palo Alto on the sleek Interurban Railway? The mass transit train, carrying packages and people, once quietly traveled the Santa Clara Valley.

Ray Cosyn is a spokesperson on the history of America. He has an Engineering Degree from the University of Illinois and a Masters Degree in American History from San Jose State University. He has spoken to numerous groups on a wide range of topics from the Civil War, through and including WWII. Mr. Cosyn is on the board of directors of the Saratoga History Museum and sits on committees focused on integrating bicycle transit into our transportation infrastructure.

Los Gatos and Saratoga Railway

Before the days of \$4 gasoline, congested highways, and polluted air, there was a time when a commuter could travel inexpensively from one place in the South Bay to another on a clean fast electric interurban railroad. Believe it or not, Los Gatos and Saratoga had the Peninsular Interurban (PI). It was part of this transportation happening that took off prior to Henry Ford rolling out his Model T and the Wright Brothers being able to demonstrate sustained flight.

At the turn of the 20th century the South Bay was an agricultural area crisscrossed by a network of dirt roads and without exception the horse was king. By the turn of the century, the cities of San Jose and Palo Alto had installed electric streetcar systems but travel outside of the metropolitan areas was primarily by horse. A new solution was required which

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Peninsular Inter-Urban Railroad Car

Message from the May 2012 Chairwomen of the Month Committee

May is a good month to look back at our accomplishments as a Branch during this year, and to plan and to join in for the year ahead.

The experiment in having *The Chairwomen of the Month*, in the place of a branch President, was very successful. The skills and talents of many members brought us excellent programs, monthly *Grapevine* messages and effective Board Meetings.

Marlene Duffin, Terri Raynaud, Sarah Model, and Lavonne Marafino (chair) spearheaded this plan as the Nominating Committee last year. Lavonne and Gail Pedersen supported these leaders each month with a *Planning Guide* and answers to their questions. Please check your 2011-12 Directory for a list of *The Chairwomen of the Month* and thank them, Gail, and Lavonne at our May 10 Branch meeting.

Our *Tech Trek Committee* once again raised funds to send 6 middle-school girls to the Stanford University AAUW Science Camp. Generous contributions by our members and other organizations will provide the funds at \$850 per girl. After being Co-chairs of *Tech Trek* for 15 years, Nancy Hobbs and Linda Hagelin would like to retire from this committee. They have found it to be fun and gratifying. We need some members to assist on a *Tech Trek* committee.

The *Local Scholarship Committee* awarded 3 scholarships this year to West Valley College women who have majored in science, math or a related field and who will transfer to a 4 year college or university. The scholarship recipients spoke at the April Potluck. (See their stories in the June 2012 *Grapevine* issue.) Our Branch sent \$5,000 to *AAUW Funds*

for Education Foundation through an annual appeal letter and a delightful Author's Luncheon. The *Legal Advocacy Committee* (LAF) raised approximately \$750 for this national AAUW program. *The Committee on Homeless Women & Children* tried a new fundraiser – the Spring Garden Party. This committee for over 22 years has been assisting the women and programs at the Georgia Travis Center, InnVision, San Jose Family Shelter, and Catholic Social Service.

Many members have donated to these programs by attending the fundraisers, working on the Committees, and with donations in their membership renewal. **Thank you!**

Members in the *Interest Sections* have continued each year to expand their knowledge and abilities. All of our programs require the support of our Branch Leaders who plan programs and refreshments, keep track of our money, recruit new members, keep records of the Board and business meetings, and conduct our activities in accordance with AAUW and Branch Bylaws.

This year members have collaborated with each other and shared the jobs that need to be done. Few of us have empty calendars. However, if we hope to have another successful year, you and I need to think about what we can do to keep the Branch alive and moving forward.

Please don't say, "*I already was an officer and I don't want to do that again.*" Instead consider what you could do this year. **Can you attend a few committee meetings in your area of interest? Can you suggest a Branch program or contact a speaker? Can you serve as Chairwoman of the Month for only a single month? Can you fill an open Board position? Contact Lavonne Marafino or myself to discuss what you can do.**

Thanks so much,
Sharon Kelkenberg



You Still Have Time to Help – Sign up to Join a Chairwomen of the Month for One Month

Flex Your Leadership Skills!

I was a one of the Chairwomen of the Month in December of this year. As the only available committee member, I acted as chair at the board meeting. I have never done this before and was nervous; help and assistance from other board members helped me to successful complete this assignment. – Gail Pedersen

Please consider taking on one month as part of a Chairwomen of the Month Committee. We need more people to step up and help the branch to move forward next year.

Step Up to Do It. If You Don't – No One Will.

Contact Lavonne Marafino, 408-867-1964, to sign up on one of our Chairwomen of the Month.

Couldn't Attend Our Spring Garden Party? You Can Still Help Homeless Women and Children!

Our Committee would like to thank all of you that attended our Spring Garden Party. It was a great success and a lot of fun. We will update you in the June 2012 *Grapevine* with a written report about our fun Spring Garden Party.



NEWS! New Housing Shelter Opened

On April 16, 2012 three of the committee members attended the dedication of the brand new facility for the Family Supportive Housing Shelter (*formerly, San Jose Living Shelter*). In addition to our annual donation to their campership fund we have made donations in various ways to this new building.

We bought a "brick" imprinted with the words, "A Friend of the Homeless", in Irmalyn Benkart's name; the money coming from her memorial fund. We funded a bench in the names of Georgia Travis, Irmalyn Benkart, Bette Pestka and Anne Dempsey. On the wall behind the bench is a plaque inscribed with their names and the following phrase "A Quiet Place to Rest". At our March meeting the Committee voted to send an additional \$2,500 to the building fund.

NEWS! Our Summer Campership Program

One of our annual donations is to the Summer Campership Program which outfits the homeless children to attend a camp with other children. With their new clothes and gear they do not stand out as homeless, a plus for their self-esteem.

It is not too late to donate for this coming summer. If you desire to do so, mail your donation to:

Donate to Campership Program

Family Supportive Housing – make checks payable to this name. Send to Campership Program, 1590 Las Plumas Ave, San Jose, CA 95133.

If you choose to donate by credit card, Google their website.

We suggest you Google the website even if not donating and see the wonderful new facility and check out information on their programs.

Call for Help from the Georgia Travis Center

The Georgia Travis Center has put out a call for the following much-needed items – if you care to donate please contact Nancy Anderson:

Personal Hygiene – Towels, bath soap, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, razors, Q-Tips, lotion, diapers, baby wipes, nail clippers.

Cleaning Products – Lysol wipes, hand sanitizer, detergents.

Office Supplies – pens, highlighters, paper clips, printer ink.

We thank you all again for your support.

For information or to drop off donated supplies, please contact Nancy Anderson by telephone at 867-4383 or email to Dander2567@aol.com

Partisanship in Congress Stops Progress on Issues

Rather than deal with the pressing issues facing the country such as continuing high unemployment, Congress has been focusing on the debt ceiling. Many members are demanding major cuts in all aspects of the federal budget, including entitlement programs such as Medicare and Social Security, as a condition for approving an increase in the debt ceiling. Little to no study has been made on the longer-term implications of the cuts being proposed. In the absence of a well-thought-out plan, it is frightening to consider the consequences of these hasty decisions.

Of particular concern to AAUW are potential changes to Social Security, such as reduction or elimination of benefits and the potential of privatization. Protecting and strengthening Social Security, one of our nation's best antipov-erty programs, is particularly important to women.

All AAUW members should be concerned about the partisanship that is so divisive both in California and in Congress.



Election AAUW-CA 2012 – Vote Now!

One Member! One Vote!

There are six total vacancies on the 16-person board. President (*see the candidate statements and summary of recent experience to the right*) and secretary are up for election this year; the other four vacancies are directors.

In early May, you will receive an email from Vote-now with your access code and a link to the voting site. If you do not have email, or the message sent to you “bounces,” you will receive a postcard by first class mail with your access code and a link to the voting site. You may also request a paper ballot if you wish to vote by mail. You may vote either way, but you may only vote once.

We are utilizing an electronic voting system hosted by Vote-Now.com. The election is currently open. A link to each candidate’s Information Form is available at aauw-ca.org.

Voting will be open for several weeks. The deadline for postmarks on mailed ballots is June 1, 2012. Online voting will close on June 15, 2012 and the results of the election will be posted on the AAUW CA website within 24 hours. The new board will take office on July 1, 2012.

For additional general information about the election, visit the AAUW CA website: <http://www.aauw-ca.org/>

Questions? AAUW CA Elections Committee

If you have any questions about the election, or to request a paper ballot, please contact office manager Susan Crabtree, 916-448-7795 or office@aauw-ca.org If you have questions about the new voting procedures, email Shelley Mitchell at smitchell@aauw-ca.org

Remember: Your Vote Counts!

The Candidates for AAUW-CA President

Alicia Hetman

Goal Statement

As president, I will form a strong team of active listeners and problem solvers who will work to increase our state’s ability to further AAUW’s Mission. First, we will cultivate a branch-centered approach for mentoring new leaders, a necessity in promoting branch health. Second, we will strengthen the member-branch-state connection for developing leadership potential. Third, we will keep AAUW CA a thriving and vital community known for breaking down barriers for women and girls.



AAUW Experience

- 2012 Convention Co-Chair and Leadership Committee
- Educational Foundation VP
- Public Policy Director
- Conference and Convention Chair
- Educational Equity Chair
- Choices for Tomorrow’s Women Chair
- Northern District Director and Program Development Committee
- Membership Committee

Reason I am Running for President – “. . . I want to lead the state board in working more in the area of leadership development.”

Sherry Ludwig

Goal Statement

Passion, experience and vision: this is the combination that makes me an excellent candidate for AAUW CA President. I am a longtime AAUW leader on women’s rights, Title IX, international advocacy and wellness. As an educator and school board trustee, I am keenly aware of the challenges our California State budget presents and their relevance to our Public Policy Priorities. As a World Language professor, I speak five languages: Spanish, French, Italian, English and AAUW!



AAUW Experience

- State Director
- State Committees – Title IX, EF, LAF, Leadership, Advocacy
- IBC Chair
- Branch President
- Programs VP
- Public Policy Chair
- International Chair
- Diversity Chair

Reason I am Running for President – “Mainly, I believe that our mission is tantamount to our success and therein lies my passion.”

AAUW Releases State-By-State Rankings for Equal Pay

D.C. Has Best Ranking, Wyoming Worst

WASHINGTON – With the release of *The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap*, the American Association of University Women (AAUW) unveiled new state-by-state equal pay rankings. Updated for the national observance of Equal Pay Day, which marks how far into the current year women must work to match what their male counterparts earned last year, *The Simple Truth* charts the wage gap in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

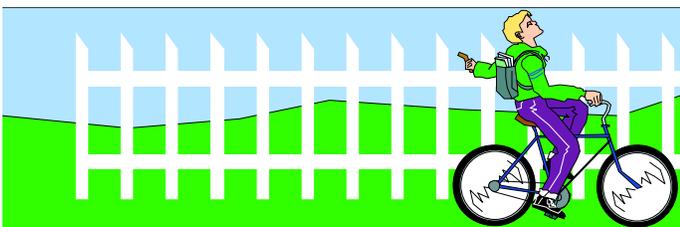
The wage gap is narrowest in the nation's capital, where women have the best earning's ratio — 91 cents, on average, for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. The state with the worst earnings ratio is Wyoming, where women make 64 percent of men's earnings. The national average puts women at just 77 percent.

The wage gap costs working women and their families tens of thousands of dollars in lost wages and directly affects women's retirement security. These numbers are worse for women of color. White and Asian women earn, respectively, 82 percent and 88 percent of white men's earnings. African American and Hispanic women earn much less — just 70 percent and 61 percent of what white men earn, on average.

“Equal Pay Day, which this year falls on April 17, is an unfortunate reminder of how far we have to go to reach true pay equality. The wage gap hasn't moved significantly in nearly a decade, and at this rate, we'll be marking Equal Pay Day for the next 60 years,” said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE.

In addition to the release of *The Simple Truth*, AAUW branches across the nation will mark Equal Pay Day by holding rallies, wearing red to symbolize that women's wages are in the red, handing out Pay Day candy bars, and hosting bake sales with discounts for women.

“The gender pay gap is unlikely to go away on its own. Our publications and tools will empower our advocacy on behalf of women and their families,” said Catherine Hill, AAUW director of research. *“The Simple Truth is a useful resource for women, the media, and society at large as we work to address this stubborn inequality.”*



Connection Today – Peninsula Inter-Urban and VTA Light Rail

Continued from the bottom of the front page.

would bring country folk to the city and allow city dwellers to not only travel between cities in minutes, but also provide them with ready access to the country. The scene was set for the beginnings of the Peninsular Interurban (PI).

The PI, which was headquarter in San Jose stretched from Palo Alto in the north, to Saratoga in the west, Los Gatos in the south and to Alum Rock Park in the east. One could board a car in Saratoga and travel to Palo Alto, San Jose, or Congress Springs with service being on the half hour over mainly a single-track line that radiated out in three directions from Saratoga. A picnic at Congress Springs, a football game at Stanford or a doctors appointment in San Jose could all be reached using the PI.

The Peninsular Interurban (PI) began operation in 1904 and ended service in 1934. In 1910 the PI purchased a group of 15 cars from the St. Louis Car Company and when the Great Depression hit were transferred these cars to Pacific Electric (PE), which carried on service until 1963.

The PI provided hourly service in each direction on the line. The fares were quite reasonable for their time and attracted fairly high ridership up to the end of WWI. During their peak years, a passenger could ride from Palo Alto to San Jose for fifty-five cents or ten cents between adjacent stations. In order to generate ridership during off peak periods, the PI built a spur line to Congress Springs, which is just west of Saratoga and provided a grand place to have a picnic in the shadow of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

“What Comes Around – Goes Around”. The VTA's light rail system is a reincarnation of the PI. Its routing varies from the original PI route in order to serve a different set of demographics; however, the technology is much the same. The VTA's system began life in 1984. The VTA line has some of the same problems that haunted the PI during its life; the major one being inadequate revenue to cover operating expenses and to service the debt. The difference today is that the VTA is a government funded and run operation (*the PI was a privately held and run enterprise*). The VTA can run at a deficit while the PI could not. This is not to say that the light rail line is a mistake because VTA ridership continues to increase. In the future, we will not be building more roads in the South Bay because of air quality and since land is not available. Given these constraints, VTA's investment in light rail is a sound one. It is unfortunate that we allowed the PI to expire before it had a chance to meet today's requirements.

–Ray Cosyn, Historian

Update on a Host of Issues that AAUW Advocates About

Study: Most Low-Wage Workers Lack Access to Employer Insurance Coverage

A new report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research at Georgetown University found that only 26 percent of low-wage workers—defined as those in the bottom 20 percent of hourly wages—received health insurance through their employers in 2010. In addition, the rate of low-wage workers who are uninsured rose from 16 percent in 1979 to 39 percent in 2010. The report notes that if the new health care law, the Affordable Care Act, is repealed, the coverage rates for low-income Americans will decline even further.

AAUW believes that everyone is entitled to health care that is high quality, affordable, and easily accessible. AAUW is hopeful that the health care law will substantially improve a system that has not worked as well as it needs to for far too long.

Census News: Bachelor's Degree Being Earned in Higher Numbers

Bachelor's Degree Attainment Tops 30 Percent for Adults 25 and Older
Census Bureau data released this week revealed that for the first time ever more than 30 percent of adults in the United States have at least a bachelor's degree. In 1998, not even 25 percent of a comparable population held bachelor's degrees. According to the data, the number of women with bachelor's degrees has increased by 37 percent over the last decade. Of the 61 million people older than 25 who hold bachelor's degrees, 30 million were men and 31 million were women.

AAUW advocates increased support for and access to higher education for women and other disadvantaged populations. Even in these difficult economic times, it is critical that we invest in higher education, which is the

most direct route to innovation, job creation, and long-term economic self-sufficiency.

Contraception Debate Ongoing at National, State Levels

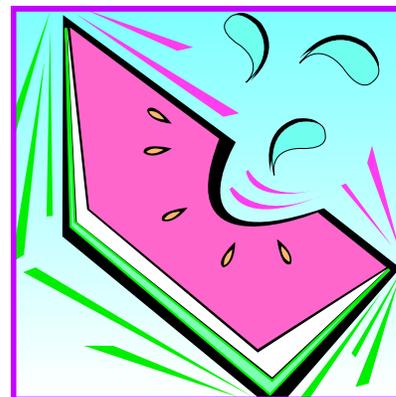
Georgetown Law student Sandra Fluke's voice was heard this week after she was denied an opportunity to speak last week at a hearing on birth control hosted by House Republicans. Fluke was scheduled to be the Democrats' only witness—and the only woman on the panel—but was left off the panel after oversight committee leaders called her unqualified.

As a result, AAUW brought in Fluke for a public forum Wednesday on access to birth control, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) hosted a hearing on women's health Thursday where Fluke was the only witness to testify. Pelosi said during the hearing, *"It's amazing what lengths they [Republicans] will go to in order to not hear the voice of women."*

Lawsuits Filed Against States Seeking to Limit Access To Reproductive Health Care Coverage

This week, seven states filed a lawsuit against the federal government's requirement that religious employers offer health insurance that includes contraceptive coverage. The seven states involved in the lawsuit are Nebraska, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Florida, and Texas.

AAUW has long believed that politicians should not insert themselves into the reproductive health care decision-making process and supports the right of every woman access to safe and comprehensive reproductive health services. AAUW and The Coalition to Protect Women's Health Care oppose any measure that attempts to restrict or limit the regulation on preventive care services and contraceptive coverage.



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 sent to a prospective NEW member, contact Gail Pedersen, Grapevine editor, at 377-6895 or gail_pedersen@yahoo.com

If you want membership information sent or the Membership VP to contact a prospective NEW member, contact Charlene Bunger at (408) 440-0063 or mozart2006@thebungers.net

May 2012 AAUW Calendar

- 1 Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish**, 1:30-3:00 pm at the home of Nancy Anderson, 23561 Lomond Ct, Saratoga. RSVP: Nancy Anderson, 867-4383. Contacts for May: Nancy Anderson, 867-4383; and Chair: Helen Lemmon, 867-0508. (*Chair Sharon Kelkenberg is out of town most of May.*)
- 2 Wednesday **Current Interests Blog**, 12:30 pm at Florentine Trattoria restaurant on Big Basin Way in Saratoga. Chair: Shirley Cancellieri, 741-5586, Co-chairs: Joan Kjemtrup, 356-6016; Barbara Hawkes, 395-4397.
- 4 Friday **Travel Armchair Adventures**, 7:30 pm at The Terraces of Los Gatos, 800 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos. *Mystical Burma and Cambodia*. Travel with photographer JoAn Lambert and friend Pat Khan to visit many of the legendary places in Myanmar (Burma), including Yangon (Rangoon) and Mandele. Then take a boat trip on Lake Inley, famous for its fishermen and their round nets. From there, it is on to Bagan, city of a thousand temples. Travel to Cambodia next and walk through ancient Angor Wat and Angor Thom and then spend a few days seeing the treasures of Bangkok, Thailand. Chair: JoAn Lambert, 867-6237. Co-Chairs: Pat Khan, 741-1616; Corinne Rathjens, 867-2445. **(This is the last scheduled program for the year.)**
- 7 Monday **Board Meeting**, 3:30 pm in the Community Room at the Saratoga Fire Station, corner of Saratoga Ave & Saratoga/Los Gatos Road.
- 8 Tuesday **Committee on Homeless Women and Children**, 7:00 pm at the home of Nancy Anderson, 13561 Lomond Court, Saratoga. Chair: Nancy Anderson, 867-4383.
- 9 Wednesday **Let's Do Lunch**, 11:30 am at The Florentine Trattoria, 14510 Big Basin Way, Saratoga, 741-1784. Hostess: Marie Horn. For reservations call Catherine Reinhardt, 867-0607. *Members and guests welcome*. Chair: Catherine Reinhardt, 867-0607.
- 10 Thursday **Scenic Hikes and Walks**, 9:00 am. *Monte Bello Open Space*. Climb Monte Bello Ridge above Cupertino for some wonderful valley views and more wildflowers. Hike 5-6 miles up and down beautiful green hills. Bring lunch. Meet promptly at 9:00 am at Argonaut Center, Saratoga. Park way out in front of CVS drugs. Questions? Jane Bishop, 356-7796; Kay Duffy, 867-0508.
- 10 Thursday **General Meeting**, Program – *Saratoga's and Los Gatos' Railroad* and the Installation of New Officers at 7:00-9:30 pm, The Terraces of Los Gatos, 800 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos. *See front page for details. (This is the last scheduled program for the year.)*
- 15 Tuesday **PM Book Review**, 7:30 pm. *Blood, Bones and Butter*, by Gabrielle Hamilton. Reviewer: JoAn Lambert. The Terraces of Los Gatos, 800 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos. RSVP to Margaret Ford, 356-5028. Chairs: Marlene Lamb, 356-8441; Pat Khan, 741-1616.
- 18 Friday **AM Book Review**, 9:30 am at the home of Geri Williams, 4630 Corrida Circle, San Jose RSVP to Geri Williams, 642-5042. Chair: Margaret Bard, 377-6625.
- 22 Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish**, 1:30-3:00 pm at the home of Nancy Anderson, 23561 Lomond Ct, Saratoga. RSVP: Nancy Anderson, 867-4383. Contacts for May: Nancy Anderson, 867-4383; and Chair: Helen Lemmon, 867-0508. (*Chair Sharon Kelkenberg is out of town most of May.*)
- 24 Thursday **Back-by-Noon Hike**, 9:00 am. Meet promptly at 9:00 am at Argonaut Shopping Center, Saratoga. Park way out front of CVS; go somewhere nearby and return by noon. Questions? Kay Duffy, 867-0508; Jane Bishop, 356-7796.
- 29 Tuesday **Film Buffs**, 1:30-3:30 pm at the home of Annette Barnes at 6559 Tam O'Shanter, San Jose. RSVP to Annette, 997-7957. Chair: Mary Ellen Madden, 264-4488.

June 2012 AAUW Calendar

- 15 Friday **AM Book Review**, 10:30 am. *End-of-the-Year Potluck*, at the home of Margo Restruck, 15725 Peach Hill Road, Saratoga, 741-5087. Chair: Margaret Bard, 377-6625.
- 19 Tuesday **PM Book Review**, 6:30 pm *End-of-the-Year Potluck*. Choose books for next year. Meet at the home of Pat Khan, 13710 Calle Tacuba, Saratoga, RSVP to Pat at 741-1616. Chairs: Marlene Lamb, 356-8441; Pat Khan, 741-1616.



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

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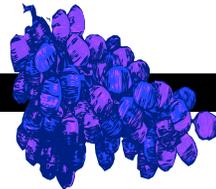
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May 2012



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

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Directory Update:

Member Moved

Kay Ruff (*New Address and Telephone*)
 5761 Orchard Park Dr, San Jose, CA 95123
 Tel. 408-578-2702; *Email is the same.*

Contact Information Changed

Joy Drury (*Corrected email address*)
d.drury@comcast.net

New Members

Sue Hallpern
 PO Box 1226, Los Gatos, CA 95031
 Tel. 914-282-8814; Susan@hallpern.com

Cindy Tolliver
 20410 Montalvo Oaks Pl, Saratoga, CA 94070
 Tel. 408-867-7920; *No email listing.*

Please send any additions, corrections or changes in the Directory Information to Patty Weber, Database Manager, xaviercugat@comcast.net



Sunshine to a Member in Need!

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

Contact Gerry at 867-2634, or gsfurman2@sbcglobal.net