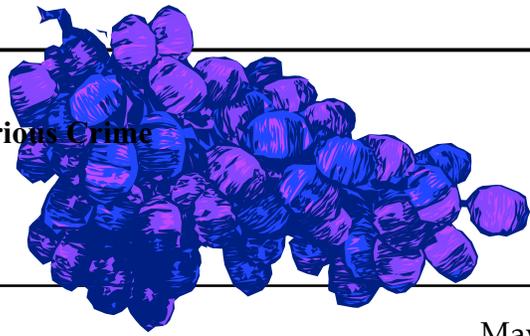


Working to Exonerate Those Wrongfully Convicted of Serious Crime

Grapevine



Volume 48, Number 9

May 2015

May 2015 – General Meeting

Working to Exonerate Those Wrongfully Convicted of Serious Crime



Friday, May 15, 2015
10:00 am to 12:00 Noon
Community Room, Saratoga Library
(13650 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The **Northern California Innocence Project** (NCIP) promotes a fair, effective and compassionate criminal justice system which protects the rights of the innocent. Since its founding in 2001, NCIP has helped win the freedom of 17 wrongfully imprisoned individuals, sponsored legislation to protect the innocent, and helped train law enforcement personnel in best practices.

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

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

Coming Next Month . . .

Annual Planning Meeting Makes Next Year Successful!

Old & New Boards Potluck

Wednesday, June 3, 2015 | 1:00 pm | RSVP to Virginia Turner
Florentine Trattoria Restaurant (14510 Big Basin Way, Saratoga)

This planning meeting is the **keystone** for next year's SUCCESS! Please come: All newly Elected Officers, All new and older Appointed Board Members, and all other interested members. Make a difference in our branch! **Open to all our valued members.**

More details have been sent to all new & old board members by email. Contact for Virginia Turner, vturner@sbcglobal.net or (408) 866-4234.



Letter from the President

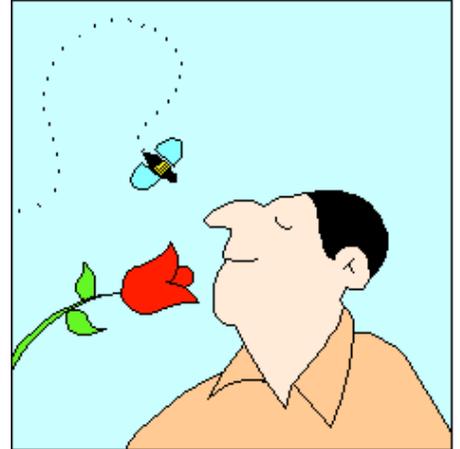
In April our Board looked more closely at the results of the branch survey (*see the April 2015 Grapevine for the full report*) which our members completed. The Board discussed a few possible changes in our program priorities for the coming year.

1. We all need to know and carry out the AAUW mission, the main reason that members gave for joining year after year. It's a simple enough statement: **AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.** One simple sentence says it all. Every member should know it. Do our programs, our local projects and our small interest groups carry out that mission?
2. We seem to have too many **monthly general meetings** at the expense of supporting our local projects and small interest groups. The most common

response preferred about 4 general meetings plus our 2 fundraisers each year. This schedule would likely mean an opening meeting in September, one general meeting in the fall, one meeting in the winter, and a celebration at the end of the year in May. We are looking for people to help plan these meetings – picking the topics, finding the speakers and setting up the time and place. **Are you interested?**

We will continue to have our fundraisers, the Authors' Lunch in January to benefit AAUW Funds and the English Tea or other event in the spring to support Tech Trek, Local Scholarships and Committee on Homeless Women and Children.

3. The overwhelming area where we could do a better job is our **visibility in the community.** People don't know what



AAUW is or what we do because we are not as visible as other organizations. We need to participate in community events, like the recent Blossom Festival in Saratoga, where we can talk to interested people and give them information about AAUW. We need to work with other organizations and groups that share many of our concerns, perhaps by co-sponsoring a general meeting. This is the way we can put out mission into action and recruit new members.

We appreciate the many suggestions you offered through the survey and hope that AAUW will remain an important part of your life. If you have any suggestions for improving our branch programs and recruiting efforts, please call (408-866-4234) or send me an email (vaturner@sbcglobal.net).
–Virginia Turner, President

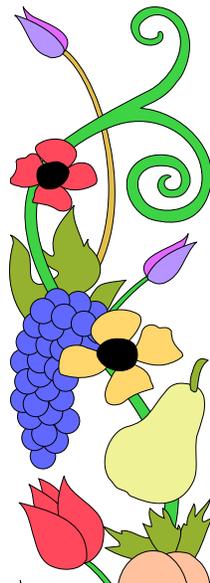
See page 5 for the list of OPEN Elected Officers in this Grapevine issue.

Qualification of Membership

Anyone holding an associate, baccalaureate, graduate degree or the equivalent, or nursing school diploma or business school associate degree from an accredited institution is eligible for membership. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

Recruiting New Members

If you want to have a printed copy of the Grapevine and a membership packet sent to a prospective NEW member, contact Gail Pedersen, Grapevine editor, at 377-6895 or gail_pedersen@yahoo.com



In the mail to you . . .

It's Membership Renewal Time – Renew Now!

It's time to renew your membership, so watch your mail for the 2015-2016 forms. The California portion of the dues was increased from \$16 to \$20 this year while both the national and branch dues remain the same as last year. Your membership will be active through June 30, 2016.

In response to our member survey we have revised the Interest and Involvement form and ask that you take a few minutes to indicate your willingness to help or participate in various branch activities.

Renew Membership by June 30

Please return your renewal form before June 30, 2015. After June 30 there is a \$2 late fee. Your timely response will simplify our work on the Directory and branch database.

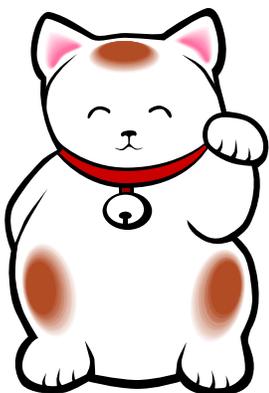
Our branch is always seeking new members. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to take a look at AAUW; guests are welcome to attend an interest group once or twice to “test drive” AAUW before they join. Many of our monthly programs are open to the public, and we can mail an information packet to prospective members at any time or they can find the information on our website.

–Virginia Turner

This year's President and next year's Membership V.P. for 2015-2016.

Our Mission

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.



“Go the extra mile.
It's never crowded.”

–Author unknown

AAUW National voting email– Be Sure to Vote!

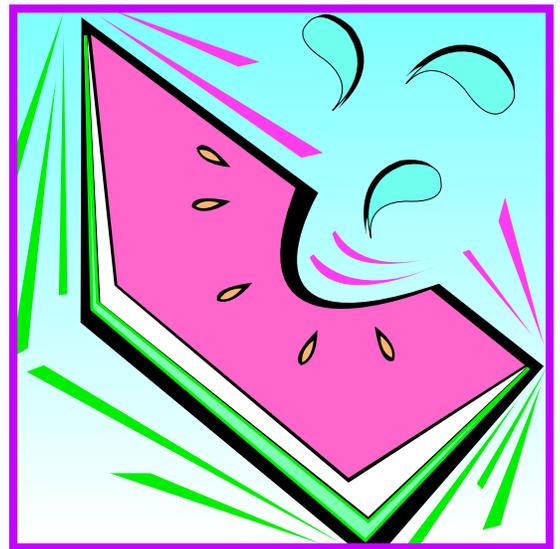
The spring/summer 2015 issue of AAUW's *Outlook* magazine has some very important information about the upcoming elections of officers, public policy, and proposed changes to the bylaws. One of the proposals will be to eliminate the requirement that members have a college degree which is certainly going to be controversial.

There is a discussion of the rationale for this proposal on page E7 of the *Outlook* and on the AAUW website at www.aauw.org. Read about it and decide how you want to vote.

Among the candidates for national office is Alicia Hetman, the former President of AAUW California, running for Vice President.

This is your chance to help set priorities for AAUW. Make your voice heard – be sure to vote. The national AAUW election runs **April 15 to June 19, 2015**.

–Virginia Turner, President



AAUW-California Elections– I Hope You Voted!

You were sent an email reminder about voting in the AAUW-CA elections. I hope that you were able to vote so that your voice was heard. The AAUW-California election ran April 19 to May 8, 2015.

Keep tuned for the June 2015 *Grapevine* issue for the results. Check out the AAUW California website at www.aauw-ca.org for the the complete election results.

Read About Working Capital . . . Opportunity Fund

Overview of the March 2015 General Meeting – Microfinance Changes Lives – A Few Dollars at a Time

STARTING OUT

Eric Weaver was in an unusual position in 1994. He was a newly minted MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business, but he couldn't find a job that interested him. The kinds of places where he hoped to work didn't recruit at business schools back then, so he was on his own. He was passionate about economic justice, and had visions of using the problem-solving acumen of business to affect change. It was the very reason he went to business school. Prompted by his experiences working with refugees in El Salvador and tenants' organizations in Washington, D.C., he saw how social justice efforts would benefit from business best practices.

To his surprise, it was a bank that came calling, actually a consortium of banks led by Silicon Valley Bank. The bankers knew that enhanced enforcement of the Federal Community Reinvestment Act under President Clinton meant they would need to ramp up investments in low-income communities. They hired Eric, put him in a cubicle at the Community Foundation in downtown San Jose, and asked him to create Opportunity Fund.

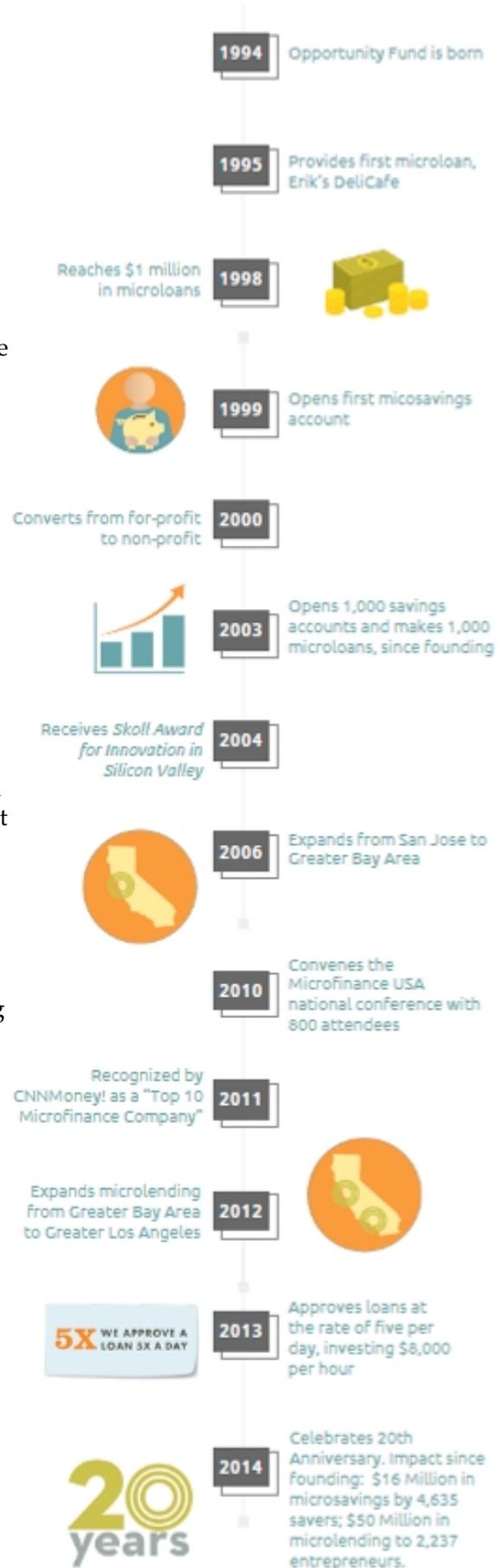
"I thought we might put together a million dollar fund and make a few loans and help a few people," Eric recalls. He had no idea what he was about to launch.

MICROLENDING

The tool the young Opportunity Fund first used to fulfill its mission was microlending – small amounts of capital, combined with business advice, to finance business startups and expansions. In 1995, Opportunity Fund made its first loan to Rick Juncker, lending him \$25,000 to open his café in Sunnyvale. The amount was too small for a bank but more than he could borrow from family and friends — in other words, perfect for Opportunity Fund!

MICROSAVINGS

A few years later, Opportunity Fund looked at the other side of the banking equation, asking "Could we use savings to help individuals create the sound financial footing they would need for a lifetime?" (continued on page 5, column 1)



Continued from previous page.

With support from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, we began our microsavings program in 1999, offering savings incentives to families and current and prospective college students. This donor-supported program matches every dollar of savings with two dollars of incentive, helping people like Hazel Yabes, one of the very first savers, pay for community college. The program proved an essential boost to people like Hazel, empowering them to reimagine their futures. The donor community has embraced the vision of enabling all Californians – even the poorest of our neighbors – to save by seeding more than 4,600 new savings accounts.

STATE WIDE SCALE AND IMPACT

In 2000, Opportunity Fund started a new chapter when we became an independent, nonprofit organization. Today, we are the premiere microlending and microsavings champion in the nation, and among the fastest growing. Our donors continue to multiply right alongside the ambitions of our savers and borrowers.

Opportunity Fund leads California's microfinance movement. We've grown from a cubicle in downtown San Jose to a team of more than 60 dedicated individuals advancing opportunities in the Greater Bay Area and Greater Los Angeles regions. Thanks to you, thousands of people like Rick Juncker and Hazel Yabes have been able to invest in their dreams.



Notes from Board Meeting

From the April 6, 2015 Board Meeting

- We had an information table at the **Saratoga Blossom Festival** – will do it again. Participation in Community Events raises the branch profile.
- Margret Bard reported on the discussions at **Interbranch Council (7 local AAUW branches)**. Coming up on May 31 at the Cambrian Library in San Jose will be the **Ice Cream Social** to honor Tech Trek girls.
- **Nominating committee** – Volunteers still needed for branch officers. **How about stepping up?** (See below for the open Elected Branch Officers.)
- **Thank you to those** who responded to the **Member Survey** sent by Virginia Turner. Our survey was mailed to 156 members, and 70 (45%) responded. (*Most surveys get 6% responses.*) The results will help with planning programs and recruitment for next year.

Branch Officers – Can you help?

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

President – open

President Elect – open

Legal Advocacy Fund VP – open

Program VP – open

Secretary – Kay Duffy

Financial VP – Louise Quenon

Membership VP – Virginia Turner

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

Membership Treasurer – Gail Pedersen

Need a President

SEEKING LEADERSHIP!

Can you help the branch at this critical time? This organization is filled with incredible and dynamic women who have a great deal to offer and the skills and drive to make a difference. Can you help the branch and all of us to move forward as a vital and growing organization?

Please think about becoming either the President or the President Elect for this coming year.

Two people can fill these leadership positions. Co-Presidents can be quite successful as we have seen in other branches here in our valley and with our own branch in the past. Co-President Elects will learn the “ropes” together and be ready to grow into the Presidential position next year. Naturally, if one person wants either job, we would love to hear from her.

AAUW-CA Leadership Development Day on March 21, 2015 . . . Developing the Leader in You!

WORKSHOP – Alternative Governance / Leadership Structures

Presented by Megan Smock (AAUW Placentia-Yorba Linda branch)

I attended the **AAUW-CA Leadership Development Day** on March 27, 2015 in Haywood. I am sharing the **Alternative Governance** workshop with you – it hit on many of the challenges our branch and many others face. **Namely** – The need to meet the members needs by changing our leadership structure for today and tomorrow.

Embrace Change! Recognize that the status quo might need to *be changed*. Don't be afraid to try something – *if it doesn't work* – try something else. –Gail Pedersen

“Alternative” Leadership structure can be –

- Nontraditional branch officers
- Creating new way to get things done & meet branch's needs
- What branch members want & need may have changed
- **Keep in Mind** – How work gets done! Tasks vs. Position | Job sharing positions vs. Teams to tackle specific tasks

STEP 1. UNDERSTANDING YOUR BRANCH CULTURE

“**Branch Culture**” — overall personality a stranger would perceive when attending a branch meeting or function.

Understanding your branch culture is key to finding what leadership structure will work best.

Questions to identify your “Branch Culture”

- How many members? Age? Retired? Work?
- Membership recruitment rate | retention rate?
- Branch meetings well-attended? Fundraisers well-attended?
- What programs / projects are supported? Interest Groups?
- Commitment to AAUW Mission & Programs?



STEP 2. EVALUATE YOUR CURRENT LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

- **What is the Process?** (*Identify key areas of concern*)
- **What about Bylaws?** (*Develop a pilot leadership structure for 1 to 2 years. Don't worry about the Bylaws!*)
- **What is working?** What is not? (*Members need to step up?*)
- **Has Member Participation increased or decreased?** (*Do you need to meet monthly? Needs of members need to be met.*)

STEP 3. EXPLORE NEW WAYS TO LEAD

Discuss Pros and Cons (*Co-officers, Rotating President, Task-focused teams, Small teams to handle Presidential tasks for 3 months – Sept-Nov; Dec – Feb; Mar – May; June by board.*)

Be open to other ideas. There is no “*Right Answer*”.

Don't keep projects, programs or structure (*Eliminate activity not supported by the members.*)

Embrace change! (*It can't happen overnight or without preparation.*)



May 2015 AAUW Calendar

- 1** Friday **Armchair Adventure Travel.** Meets 7:30 pm at the Terraces (800 Blossom Hill Rd., Los Gatos). *“My Memorable Trip to Bhutan, 2011”*. Presented by traveler Yao-Pi Hsu. *“I felt back in time and space once I landed in Bhutan with its well preserved natural environment, culture, religion, and friendly people. Bhutan is a ShangriLa hidden deep in the Himalayan mountains. Join me on this unforgettable trip.”* **Open to the public!**
- 4** Monday **Board Meeting.** Meets 3:30 pm in the Community Room at the Saratoga Fire Station (corner of Saratoga Ave & Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd).
- 5** Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets 1:30-3:00 pm at Nancy Anderson’s home (13561 Lomond Ct., Saratoga). RSVP: Nancy Anderson, (408) 867-4383. Chair, Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656. **Maintain your conversational skills.**
- 12** Tuesday **Committee for Homeless Women and Children.** Meets at 7:00 pm the home of Pat Khan (13710 Calle Tacuba, Saratoga). RSVP: Chair, Pat Khan, (408) 741-1616. **All are welcome!**
- 13** Wednesday **Let’s Do Lunch.** Meets 12:30 pm at Campo di Bocci (545 University Ave, Los Gatos) behind and kitty corner to the Safeway store on Los Los Gatos Blvd. Enjoy great Italian food in a leisurely setting. RSVP: host Linda King, (408) 354-4105; Chair Joanna Yates, (408) 395-2950. **Come and enjoy good food, good company and good conversation!**
- 14** Thursday **Scenic Hikes and Walks.** Meets promptly at 9:00 am Los Gatos “Free Parking- Northside Lot” behind Starbucks. Hike in **San Vicente or Canada del Oro Open Space.** **San Vicente** is a new south county wilderness open space near Calero Reservoir. We will seek permission to hike this still-closed area. Great views and wildflowers. 5-7 miles. Bring lunch. Questions? Call Kay Duffy, (408) 867-0508; Jane Bishop, (408) 356-7796. **Seeking new hikers!**
- 15** Friday **General Meeting.** Meets 10:00 am – 12:00 noon at Community Room, Saratoga Library. Maitreya Badami, Innocence Project’s legal director, will speak about **Working to Exonerate Those Wrongfully Convicted of Serious Crime.** (See front page.) **Open to the public!**
- 19** Tuesday **PM Book Group.** Meets 7:30 pm at Saratoga Retirement Community (14500 Fruitvale Ave, Saratoga). Book *“The Invention of Wings”* by Sue Monk. Reviewed by Margaret McCartney. RSVP: Marilyn Lenormand, (408) 741-7820. Co-Chairs: Pat Khan, (408) 741-1616; Marlene Lamb, (408) 497-1555.
- 22** Friday **AM Book Review.** Meets at 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!**
- 26** Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets 1:30-3:00 pm at Nancy Anderson’s home (13561 Lomond Ct., Saratoga). RSVP: Nancy Anderson, (408) 867-4383. Chair, Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656. **Maintain your conversational skills.**
- 26** Tuesday **Film Buffs.** Meets at 1:30 pm, Lita Askanas’s home (13460 Saraview Dr, Saratoga). RSVP: Lita Askanas, (408) 867-2543. Chair: Mary Ellen Madden, (408) 264-4488. **Like movies? Join us.**
- 28** Thursday **Back-by-Noon Hike.** Meet promptly at 9:00 am at Argonaut Center, Saratoga, way out in front of CVS Drugs. Questions? Call Kay Duffy (408) 867-0508 or Jane Bishop (408) 356-7796.

June 2015

- 2** Tuesday **Conversations in Spanish.** Meets 1:30-3:00 pm at Nancy Anderson’s home (13561 Lomond Ct., Saratoga). RSVP: Nancy Anderson, (408) 867-4383. Chair, Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656. **Maintain your conversational skills.**
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New Members

Sharon Graham – New

Address: 116 Milmar Way
Los Gatos, CA 95032 | C (408) 204-2585
Email – sharona.graham@gmail.com

Julie Stevens – New

Address: 19070 Portos Dr.
Saratoga, CA 95070 | (408) 867-5968
Email – stevensjuliea@gmail.com

Directory Contact Change

Joyce Rastatter

New Address: 121 Spruce Hill Ct.
Los Gatos, CA 95032

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

Send a Ray of Sunshine to a Member in Need!

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

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

