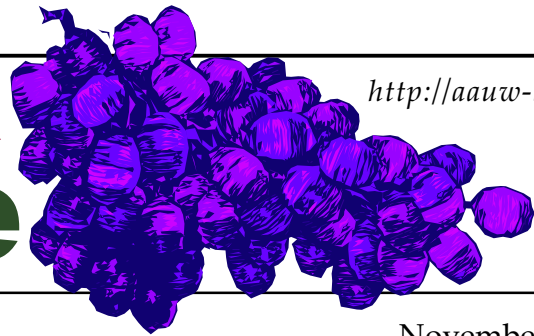


# Grapevine



Volume 50, Number 3

November 2017

## General Meeting on Nov 15<sup>th</sup>

### Universal Design IS for Everyone! – Aging in place and in comfort



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

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Design Your Forever Home** – a home that is beautiful, safe and functional whatever your age or ability.

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

10:30 am to 12:30 pm

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

Coffee – Tea & Light Refreshments will be served.

The term “*universal design*” describes the concept of designing products and buildings to be both aesthetically pleasing and usable to the greatest extent possible by everyone, regardless of their age, ability, or status in life.

Senior designers Genie Nowicki and Lisa Stern from Harrell Remodeling, certified experts in the concept of Universal Design or Aging in Place (AIP), will show before-and-after photos, product and design ideas for all levels of AIP. Come and gather ideas about improving your space and consider if “*universal design*” could allow you to live gracefully in your home for many years to come.

For additional information, please contact  
Virginia Turner, AAUW ~ (408) 866-4234 [vturner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vturner@sbcglobal.net)

## Coming January 2018. -

**Save the Date** – this year’s **Author’s Luncheon** at the Terraces in Los Gatos will be on **Tuesday, January 30, 2018.**

This is our annual fundraiser for the AAUW Fund supporting fellowships, community action grants and other programs.

See highlights of our authors starting this month – a book review for an earlier, published book is included in this *Grapevine* on page 4. Next month we will share a book review of their most recent book, and then in January 2018 we will include a biography of each of our authors to introduce them to you.

Our Authors this year are: **Tracy Guzeman**, wrote her first novel – *The Gravity of Birds*; **John Bateson**, wrote a nonfiction book – *The Education of a Coroner: Lessons in Investigating Death*; **Jana McBurney-Lin**, wrote a historical novel – *Blossoms and Bayonets* (a true story based on co-author **Hi-Dong Chai**’s life).

For questions or more information, please contact Judy Borlase at (408) 358-2262.



# Letter from the Leadership Team



## Two Simple Way to Recruit New AAUW Members

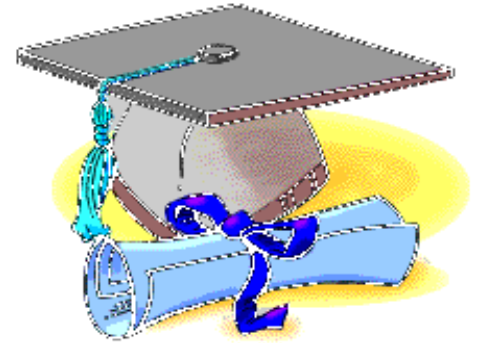
The first idea is one you're already familiar with: **Word of mouth**. Our current members are the best way to recruit new members because they already know about AAUW and are interested in our mission.

- Be prepared with a brief description of what AAUW is and what AAUW does. Memorize the mission statement – it's only 13 words long: "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."
- Invite your friends and acquaintances to join you at a **general meeting** which is open to the public.
- Encourage them to come to one of the **interest sections** they might enjoy. Anyone who is interested in joining our branch is welcome to attend a meeting

of any interest group before they join — a "free sample" before they make their decision. Check the calendar in the *Grapevine* for details of interest group meetings each month and let the coordinator know you are bringing a guest.

- Ask them to sit with you at either of our **fundraisers**, the Authors' Lunch on January 30 which benefits AAUW Funds and the English Tea on April 21 which benefits our Committee on Homeless Women and our Local Scholarships.

The second idea may be something you are not familiar with: **Give a Grad a Gift**. Any AAUW member can give recent college graduates a FREE, one-year



AAUW National and State membership within two years of graduation, at no cost to you or them. You can give as many gifts as you like! Would this be appropriate for a member of your family or for a neighbor?

For membership forms and more information, contact Virginia Turner at (408) 866-4234 or by email at [vturner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vturner@sbcglobal.net) or visit our branch website [www.aauw-lgs.org](http://www.aauw-lgs.org).  
–Virginia Turner, Membership Chair

## AAUW of Santa Clara County Supports Strong Start Program

Santa Clara County Inter-Branch Council and every AAUW member in the county's seven branches is a supporter of **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, including adequate and equitable funding for all students, starting at preschool.

Currently, the **Strong Start** coalition is designing a local funding

initiative, either to place on the Santa Clara County ballot or the state ballot for vote in the November 2018 election. The initiative may include transportation, housing for early childhood education, and the target population to help with cost. Watch next year for more information about the initiative.

Dana Bunnet, director of *Kids in Common*, introduced the extended vision for "every child safe, healthy, successful in learning, and successful in life." She presented the data collected in The Santa Clara County Children's Agenda, 2017 Data Book. The volume includes data which can be turned into

action. For example, are there duplicate programs that work which can be made known to other groups with issues in common. See more at [www.kidsincommon.org](http://www.kidsincommon.org).

Last, if your branch in designing a meeting around one of our mission goals and would like to learn more about **Strong Start**, please contact [c.noonan@yahoo.com](mailto:c.noonan@yahoo.com) to be connected to the Santa Clara County Office of Education **Strong Start** presenters. They are eager to make the project known to all supporters.

# Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans

## Part 2: The Changing Nature of Higher Education

College students today are more diverse than ever. Once rarities who received but a small fraction of college degrees when AAUW was founded in 1881, **women now earn 57% of bachelor's degrees** from American colleges and universities. There have also been large increases in the representation of racial and ethnic minorities in college enrollment; between 1976 and 2014 the portion of enrolled college students who were not white more than doubled from 16% to 42%. Women of all racial and ethnic groups are now more likely to earn a bachelor's degree than are men in their racial and ethnic groups, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

However this increased diversity within colleges and universities has occurred alongside the increased price of attendance.

Though median household incomes in the United States have barely budged since 1976, the **median price of college attendance has more than doubled** since then. The gap between house-



hold incomes and the price of attendance is being filled by student loans, which are readily available to almost all college students.

Why have costs increased so dramatically? The answer is complicated but has more to do with **where funding is coming from** than with how colleges and universities are allocating their budgets. In particular state funding of public colleges and universities has decreased significantly. Between 1975 and 1980 almost 60% of higher education was financed by state funds with tuition and other costs for students and their families making up about one-third of higher education funding. In 2006 tuition and other costs to students and families made up 52% of higher education funding while state funding had decreased to 35% by 2011.

Today more than half of graduating U.S. college students have paid for some or all of their education by means of student loans. Federal loans make up by far the majority of student loans – in both quantity of loans and amount owed; in 2016



federal loans made up 90% of distributed student loans. The standard student loan repayment plan for federal student loans requires borrowers to pay the same amount each month over a span of 10 years. However, the government offers two broad categories of assistance for struggling borrowers:

- Income-driven repayment plans typically cap the monthly payment as a set percentage of their discretionary income; and
- Student loan may be forgiven, cancelled or discharged under particular circumstances such as permanent disability, bankruptcy, or working in public service.

While student loans help students and their families finance college attendance, students are increasingly leaving college burdened with debt they will have difficulty repaying, given their earnings and financial resources.

**Note:** You can read the full AAUW research study on the AAUW national website. Or See the PDF of the full report attached for those with emails. Over the next several months we will summarize the report in this column.

### Make this Directory Change –

Sally Bischoff's email should be –  
 smbischoff43@gmail.com  
 (Note this change in your Directory)

### Did you find any mistakes in your listing? Let me know.

Gail Pedersen, send email to gail\_pedersen@yahoo.com or call (408) 377-6895. Thank you.



## Prior Books by Our 2018 Author's Luncheon Participants



### *The Final Leap: Suicide on the Golden Gate Bridge* (Non Fiction)

By John Bateson

The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the most beautiful and most photographed structures in the world. It is also the most deadly.

Since it opened in 1937, more than 1,500 people have died jumping off, making it a top suicide site. It's also the only international landmark without a suicide barrier. Weaving drama, tragedy, and politics against the backdrop, *The Final Leap* is the first book ever written about Golden Gate Bridge suicides.

John Bateson provides insight into the phenomenon of suicide, and examines arguments for and against the addition of a suicide barrier. Bateson tells the stories of those who have died, the few who have survived, and those who have been affected—from families to the Coast Guard, from the coroner to suicide prevention advocates.



### *Shattered by the Wars* (Memoir)

By Hi-Dong Chai

During World War II, under Japan, my father was imprisoned because he was a Christian minister who refused to bow down to the picture of the Japanese emperor. My elder brother volunteered to join the Japanese military in the hope of having his father released from the prison. He left home as a vibrant, fifteen-year-old boy and returned home as a worn-out, injured, eighteen-year-old man after the war; he died a year later.

During the Korean War, two North Korean officers came to my house and took my father away because he was a Christian minister. He never returned.

*Shattered by the Wars* is the story of love, sacrifice, faith, and suffering, all wrapped in one package. The heroine in the story is my mother, as seen by her youngest son.



### *My Half of the Sky* (Fiction)

By Jana McBurney-Lin

*My Half of the Sky* (debut novel) introduces Li Hui, a modern young Chinese woman of marriageable age who has recently graduated University. Her goal is to realize Mao's words: *Women hold up half of the sky*.

Li Hui struggles to find love while acting with honor. Guidance, from all corners of her world, based on different and conflicting generational, historical and cultural values. Everyone wants something different for and from her, particularly her parents who mourn their lack of a son while attempting to marry Li to their greatest advantage.

*Does this sound like Jane Austen writing about the dilemmas facing young women in China today? You bet.* This original and insightful work is in the best traditions of classic novels that explore people caught in the crucible of change in complex cultures.

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### Tracy Guzman – First Novel a Bestseller

Tracy Guzman's previous short stories have 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. Tracy's first novel is titled *The Gravity of Birds*. (See next month's *Grapevine* for the book review.)

*The Gravity of Birds*, a richly textured novel, selected as a good read. —"O", *The Oprah Magazine*

"Talented...incredibly assured...her cast of endearing eccentrics and her stellar prose will win a loyal audience." —**Booklist**

"Riveting debut" —**Good Housekeeping**

"Part mystery, part psychological drama and intriguing love story. This is a stunning debut. I want to scream from the rooftops: read this book!" —**Ellen Sussman**, author of *French Lessons* (NY Times Bestseller)

"It is a novel not to be missed." —**Alyson Richman**, author of *The Lost Wife* (Bestseller)

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# National AAUW – Highlighting Gender Pay Gap

## AAUW Pushes to Expand the Understanding of the Gender Pay Gap & Share Talking Points and the Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap study

The National AAUW presents the new gender pay gap figures.

This week brought the release of new U.S. Census Bureau data about the gender pay gap. AAUW's analysis indicates that women working full-time on average still make just 80 cents for every dollar men are paid. We also crunched the numbers by state and Congressional district, which you can find on the AAUW website.

We'll release the updated version of *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap* very soon.

**We're calling on you to use this opportunity to advocate for solutions that help to close the gender pay gap. One action you can take is to write and submit Letters to the Editor in local and statewide newspapers. (And do so yourself!)**

AAUW provides the resources and talking points necessary to get started. Take action while this information is in the news.

**We appreciate your advocacy.**

### Save the Date

Tuesday, January 30, 2018 – **Authors' Luncheon** at the Terraces in Los Gatos again this year; this is our annual fundraiser for the association's AAUW Fund supporting fellowships, community action grants and other programs.

Next *Grapevine* will have the information about making your reservations to attend the **Author's Luncheon**. Stay tuned!

### Talking Points for Letters to the Editor or Op-Ed on Gender Pay Gap Resources

- FAQs about the Gender Pay Gap
- State-and-congressional-district / Gender Pay Gap by State and Congressional District (roadmaps, updated 9/14)
- Policy Guide to Equal Pay in the States (chart, updated 9/12)
- AAUW Statement: Gender Pay Gap Remains at 20 Cents – [www.aauw.org/article/pay-gap-remains-at-20-cents/](http://www.aauw.org/article/pay-gap-remains-at-20-cents/)
- *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap* (update expected 9/19)
- How to Work with the Media
- When to Write a Letter to the Editor vs. Op-Ed

### Best Practices for Writing a Letter to the Editor or an Op-Ed Piece

- Check your local paper's submission guidelines, including required format, exclusivity rules, and word count
- Title your letter (e.g.: (STATE) Families Can't Afford Inaction on Equal Pay)
- Sign your letter with your name, your AAUW branch title (if applicable), and your AAUW branch affiliation
- Include a personal or local anecdote or example that localizes the issue; name and take credit for the advocacy of local AAUW members/branches to address this issue
- Always include a call to action!

### Talking Points

New data revealed what we already know – the gender pay gap is persistent and it's pernicious. AAUW's own research report, *The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap*, demonstrates how much the pay gap impacts women, families, businesses, and the nation's economy.

In 2016, women working full-time in the United States were paid on average just 80 cents for every dollar men made, a wage gap of 20 percent.

The wage gap is worse for women of color. African American women are paid 63 percent of what white men are paid, while Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander women are paid 59 percent, American Indian and Alaska Native women are paid 57 percent, and Hispanic women or Latinas are paid just 54 percent of what white men are paid.

At our current rate of progress, the pay gap won't close until 2119 (*more than a century from now!*).

Pay equity is not just a woman's issue – it affects men, children, families, and our economy. Women are integral to their families' well-being, the modern day workplace, and to a thriving economy. Pay equity is the key to families making ends meet and moving working families into the middle class. With a record number of women in the workforce and nearly half of women functioning as primary or co-breadwinners for their families, equal pay for women — especially women of color — is critical to families' economic security.

*Article is continued on page 6.*

*This article is continued from page 5.*

## Highlighting Gender Pay Gap

Strong legislation is a necessary tool in closing the gender pay gap. If legislators want to stay true to commitments to a strong economy, ensuring women receive equal pay for equal work is a place to start.

More and more states are taking equal pay matters into their own hands and who can blame them for growing weary of waiting for federal action on an issue that clearly has the public's support and attention. Red, blue, and purple states worked to introduce and pass equal pay legislation that will in turn strengthen their workforce and economy.

Over 40 states considered equal pay bills during the 2017 legislative session, showing that there is broad demand for action to close the gender pay gap. Specifically, over 25 states considered salary history bills in the 2017 legislative session. This is clearly an issue that resonates with workers and policymakers alike. States and localities that have passed salary history bans: Massachusetts, Oregon, Delaware, and Puerto Rico as well as Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New Orleans, San Francisco, and New York City.

### Calls to Action

AAUW continues to advocate for strong pay equity legislation, regulation, and enforcement to protect employees and assist employers.

**Federal:** Call on your members of Congress to support strong, effective legislation to close the gender pay gap by cosponsoring and passing the Paycheck Fairness Act, the Fair Pay Act .

**State:** *The talking points below are meant to provide general guidance. Please insert specific information about your state's legislative proposal in your Letter to Editor. Email [advocacy@aauw.org](mailto:advocacy@aauw.org) for assistance.*

**Passed a bill** (2017: CO, OR, NV, DE, PR; 2016: CA, DE, MD, MA, NE, UT): We have a lot to cheer about – in 2016-17 we passed an equal pay bill here in [STATE]. While the federal government refuses to act, our elected officials are paying attention to things that matter here in [STATE]. Working together it'll be easier for employers to follow the law and citizens to bring home a fair day's pay.

**Made progress:** This past year we made real progress toward passing an equal pay bill here in [STATE]. But just like the women who continue to be short changed by the pay gap, getting close is not good enough. We need our legislators to listen to those who put them in office and take meaningful action to close the gender pay gap once and for all. Call on your elected officials to pass a meaningful equal pay law in 2018 so everyone in [STATE] can bring home a fair day's pay.

**No progress:** As the years roll by and the pay gap remains, with little progress toward ending this pervasive problem, our elected officials continuously refuse to act. Neighboring states are passing bills, or at least considering action to close the gender pay gap, but here in [STATE], our legislators refuse to act. The gender pay gap will not close on its own. We need action, women can't wait any longer. Tell your legislators that you want to see real solutions; we expect a strong new equal pay law in 2018.



## Gifts For Teens Help Assemble Holiday Gift Bags

Get in the giving and holiday spirit. Join *Gifts for Teens* by helping prepare gift items and filling 1,200 duffle and colorful totes with fun and needed gift items for low income and homeless teens. Sign up now – shifts fill up quickly!

**Where:** Cambrian Park Plaza. 14396 Union, San Jose. (corner of Union and Camden Ave). Easy access off Hwy 17 or Hwy 85.

**When:** December 8-16. Daytime 3-Hour Shifts: 9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1:00 pm-4:00 pm. Inquire about Saturday shifts and Wednesday, Dec. 3 evening shift.

**Volunteer:** Individual sign ups: contact [Kathy@gifts4teens.org](mailto:Kathy@gifts4teens.org)

**Donate:** Email questions or to donate cash for purchasing needed items or in-kind items like store / fast food gift cards or small hand held games at [Elaine@gifts4teens.org](mailto:Elaine@gifts4teens.org)  
-Jan Giroux, *Gifts for Teens*, [jgiroux603@aol.com](mailto:jgiroux603@aol.com)



**Happy Thanksgiving!**

## November 2017 AAUW Calendar

- 3 Friday **Armchair Travel Adventures.** Meets 7:30 pm at The Terraces (800 Blossom Hill Rd., Los Gatos). **Climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro** – presented by Ken Bloomfield. Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa, rises 19,341 feet above the continent. Climbing Mt. Kili, while not a technical climb, requires stamina and determination, plus warm clothes and lots of medication for the five day hike to the summit. Altitude sickness can strike even the youngest and fittest of climbers, but the reward at the top is worth it. Chair: JoAn Lambert, (408) 867-6237. **Everyone is welcome.**
- 6 Monday **Board Meeting.** Meets 3:00 pm at the Saratoga Fire Station, Community Room (corner of Saratoga Ave & Saratoga/Los Gatos Rd.) **All Members are Welcome!**
- 7 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: Nancy Anderson, (408) 867-4383. Chair: Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656. **Visitors are Welcome.**
- 9 Thursday **Scenic Hikes and Walks – Tarwater Trail - Pescadero Park** – Hike through lovely redwoods and along a creek with unusual tar-ball deposits – off Alpine Road toward the coast. Bring lunch. 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!**
- 14 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. **Visitors are Welcome.**
- 15 Wednesday **Fall General Meeting – Universal Design is for Everyone.** 10:30 am – 12:30 pm in the Community Room, Saratoga Public Library (13650 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga) Aging in place and comfort. Cosponsored with the Saratoga Library. *See front page for details.* **Open to the Public**
- 15 Wednesday **Let's Do Lunch.** Meet 12:30 pm at **Fish Market** (1007 Blossom Hill Rd, San Jose – near Almaden Expy). RSVP: Barbara Allen, (408) 354-8208. Chair: Joanna Yates, (408) 395-2950. Join us for great conversation and fun. ~~There~~ will be no luncheon in December due to the Holidays.
- 17 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!**
- 21 Tuesday **PM Book Group.** Meets 7:30 pm at Saratoga Retirement Community (14500 Fruitvale Ave, Saratoga). **Book: "The Little Paris Bookshop"** by Nina George. Reviewer, Marlene Lamb. RSVP: Marilyn Lenormand, (408) 741-7820. Chair: Marlene Lamb, (408) 497-1555. **Join Us!**
- 24 Friday **\*\* DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING\*\* Back-by-Noon Hike.** Exercise 5 miles on nearby trails to walk off some of that huge turkey dinner together with the Friday hikers! Meet promptly! 9:00 am in Saratoga at Argonaut Center, (way out in front of CVS). Questions? Jane Bishop, (408) 356-7796; Kay Duffy, (408) 867-0508. **New Hikers Welcome!**
- 28 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: Nancy Anderson, (408) 867-4383. Chair: Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656. **Visitors are Welcome.**
- 28 Tuesday **Film Buffs.** Meet 1:30 pm, at Barbara Lea's home (121 Strathmore Place, Los Gatos). RSVP Barbara Lea, 408-354-2287. Chair: Marlene Lamb, (408) 497-1555. **All Movie Lovers Welcome!**
- 30 Thursday **Trail Cleanup for Hikes and Walks** – on the AAUW adopted trail. Back-by-Noon + coffee or lunch. Bring gloves & clippers, if you have them. Meet promptly! 9:00 am in Los Gatos "Free Parking - Northside Lot" behind Starbucks. Questions? Jane Bishop, (408) 356-7796; Kay Duffy, (408) 867-0508. **Seeking New Hikers!**

## December 2017

- 4 Monday **Board Meeting.** Meets 3:00 pm at the Saratoga Fire Station, Community Room (corner of Saratoga Ave & Saratoga/Los Gatos Rd.)
- 5 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: Nancy Anderson, (408) 867-4383. Chair: Sharon Kelkenberg, (650) 962-1656. **New Members and Visitors are Welcome.**



November 2017

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

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## Interest Group December Holiday Parties

*Wishing to attend a Holiday Party, consider one of these:*

- **Tuesday, December 12:** Holiday Potluck lunch and gift wrapping for homeless women gifts. Starts at 11:00 am at Nancy Anderson’s home.
- **Thursday, December 14:** Holiday Hike with annual holiday lunch. Starts at 9:00 am. Fall Creek and Hallcrest Winery (Felton) bring holiday “goodies” to share for lunch or at Kay’s house (at 11:00 am) if it’s raining hard.
- **Friday, December 19:** PM Book Group. 7:30 pm. Holiday Potluck at Marilyn Lenormand’s home, at the Saratoga Retirement Center. Bring a poem or story to share!

*See next month’s calendar for more details and any additional Holiday Parties.*

Events are sponsored by the LG-S AAUW interest groups listed.

