



# BONFIRE



JANUARY 2010

AAUW SAN JOSE BRANCH Established in 1909 'Because Education is the Key'

We're on the Web!  
www.aauwsanjose.org

## Coming Up . . .

**Open House**  
**"Continuing Education"**  
February 2nd,

- Education Foundation
- Public Policy
- Great Decisions
- Exploring World Literature
- Friends Around the World
- Art Appreciation
- French Conversation
- Family History

February General Meeting.....

**"Public Input—Better Output"**  
February 6th

Charlotte Newhart,  
AAUW California  
Advocate (see back page)

Third Wednesday Program.....

**Santa Clara**  
**County Open Space**  
**Authority**  
February 17th

Come hear about local open spaces preserved for us to explore and enjoy.

## "IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR" FOR ENDOWMENT OF THE CENTENNIAL FELLOWSHIP

Jean Boyden



What generous donors our members are! The donations from our branch totaled 50 percent more in 2009 than in 2008, putting us ever closer to fully endowing our San Jose Branch Centennial American Fellowship. At the Northern California Fellows luncheon in October a list of California endowments still to be completed showed ours as having received \$44,000.

This is due not only to our efforts but also to other neighboring branches and to the State AAUW. Once National completes its tally of 2009 donations in February we shall know exactly how much is still needed before a very worthy woman receiving our fellowship will be able to devote full time to her studies. Each one of the fellows speaking at the luncheon noted how much she benefitted from not having to work at an outside job for a year, thanks to AAUW support.

As you have heard, from now on we will make our tax-deductible donations to AAUW Funds rather than Educational Foundation (EF). If you send donations in during the year in memory of, or to otherwise honor, someone please make the check out to AAUW Funds—and, of course, please designate that it go to Fund #4325, our Centennial Fellowship fund.

After Barbara Shaffer and I committed the branch to raising the \$200,000 required to endow a fellowship, we spent many sleepless hours worrying about reaching that goal in 15 years. Thanks to your generosity, we are well on our way and both sleeping better these nights.

## NEW MEMBERS

Please join the Membership Committee in welcoming the following members:

**Wanda Foss** is a renewing member, who also belongs to the Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch, has recently retired. Now she has only one phone number to deal with and that is 356-0763. She is interested in Art Appreciation, bridge, writing, editing and photography.

**Gene Goodman** who became a member of our branch in November. She graduated from Boston College with a degree in English and earned a degree in computer programming. Gene is now retired and spends a lot of time reading and enjoying her two daughters and four grandchildren.

**AAUW's Value Promise** By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

BRANCH UPDATES

**A WOMAN’S NATION CHANGES EVERYTHING**

**Geri Madden, Public Policy Member**

Do you ever feel like no matter what effort you put into activism in pursuit of social change, it doesn’t matter? I do. That’s why reading “The Shriver Report”, a recently published in-depth report on the status of women and the economy has given me renewed hope and focus. The Report reminds me that social change in a democracy takes time and is an evolutionary process. For instance, Title VII of the Civil

Rights Act of 1964 made it illegal for most employers to discriminate with respect to pay and benefits. This law did not protect pregnant women though and so the Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA) was passed in 1978. Then, in response to the PDA’s shortfalls, Congress passed the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993. These laws were passed in response to grassroots efforts by women’s groups throughout the

Country and the laws worked together to foster many positive changes for women in America’s workforce.

The Report recognizes that legislative history and tells us that there is much more work to be done for today’s women and families. Go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) and look under “A Women’s Nation Changes Everything” to see AAUW’s response to this important research paper and call to action.

**ART APPRECIATION**

**Lida Kluzek, Diana Taylor**

On January 20, Art Appreciation will tour the Los Gatos Museums Gallery and the Art Museum of Los Gatos.

The Museum’s Gallery, in partnership with the art museum, is a boutique gallery offering original works by dozens of local artists, many of whom are award winners. It has a wide range of art

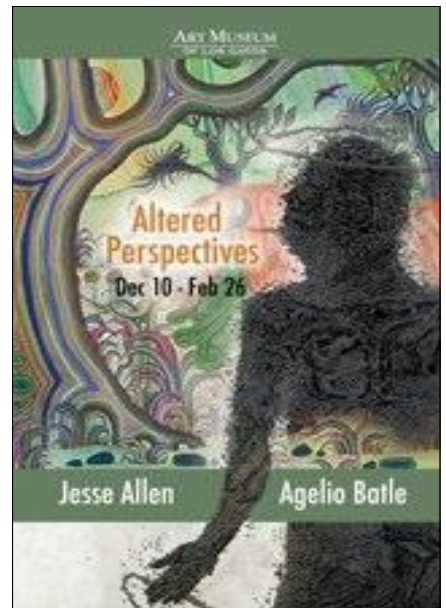
works. The exhibit at the Art Museum of Los Gatos is "Altered Perspectives: Explorations of the Organic and Spiritual Realms;" featured artists are Jesse Allen and Agelio Batle.

We will meet at 10:30 at headquarters to carpool or meet at 11:00 at the Museum Gallery, 24 N. Santa Cruz. Lunch will be at a nearby restaurant followed by the

visit to the Art Museum. All of our stops are within an easy walk. Contact Lida Kluzek or Diana Taylor.



Art Museum of Los Gatos



Altered Perspectives Exhibit

**Post Office Update**

**Alma Powell and Judy Kristofferson**

The post office is hinting that mailings will go UP soon, with additional fees for stapling. For now, we can staple at the present price, but I see the handwriting on the wall. Each time we mail, the P.O. staff comes up with something new. If you still receive your newsletter via snail mail, please give serious thought to switching to e-mail. The email version contains all the news plus color extras, is as easy to read when printed, and, as a famous postmaster once said, “A penny saved is a penny earned.”

## NOVEMBER TECH EXCELLENCE

Jane Guinther

*What are polychaetes?*

*How does marine life adapt to the deep ocean?*

These were questions explored during November's Tech Excellence activities.

The Environmental Center in Alviso provided an interesting look at our smaller bay creatures through an exercise in mud sieving.

The on-campus class found several invertebrates in the ooze while learning about the importance of the San Francisco Bay ecosystem and its relationship to the deep ocean. The field trip took the girls to Santa Cruz for a look, and feel, of the ocean environment at



Environmental Center in Alviso

the Long Marine Lab Discovery Center. The laboratory stations had the girls listening for differences in sounds used by deep-sea creatures for communicating, looking at the importance of color as a survival mechanism, and feeling the pressure generated by water depth.

Many of the girls found the best things about the activities were looking through the mud and knowing that "all these creatures exist", while for others it was looking at the dolphins and getting hands-on experience at the touch-pool.



Long Marine Lab Discovery Center

## REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Mary Francis, Reproductive Rights Chair

In last month's article regarding the Health Care Reform bill, I indicated that I thought the bill would already have made its way through the House and Senate. I wasn't taking into consideration the long and winding road to passing a bill. As of the end of November, a bill is still being crafted in the

Senate, and it seems to change daily as critics from all sides voice their opinion. It is difficult to know whether the final bill will contain a government option or protect a woman's right to choose.

If not, then we still have a lot of work to do, and I ask your support in doing

it. As the newsletter comes out only once a month, and things change daily, I would invite you to contact me with your email address if you would like to be updated as I receive updates from AAUW, Planned Parenthood, and other sources. My email address is [maryjfrancis@aol.com](mailto:maryjfrancis@aol.com).

## LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

Brenda Ladewig

Katelyn Hart, our Local Scholarship recipient who is spending the year studying Spanish in Granada, Spain, sent e-mail to update us on her progress. She writes:

"I thought that you all might want to get a glimpse of how my first semester in Granada has been going so far. To give you a hint, the going is good! Most importantly, I love my classes! Now I am taking Spanish Civilization and Culture, Latin American Literature, Written and Oral Production, History of Spanish Cinema and a class on Federico Garcia Lorca and the

Generation of 27. My time studying here has proven to me that choosing to major in Spanish was the right choice, as I have never been more interested in my classes. It helps that my professors are really fun, engaging and laid back. That doesn't mean that their tests are easy though! Spanish professors expect you to study and master the material on your own, WITHOUT study guides.

Granada has become even more magical for me now that I have been able to better understand my class's lectures. For example, I discovered Wednesday that a café three blocks from my house used to be the

place where Lorca would meet with his intellectual and artist friends to share his work and converse about new developments in the art world. It's learning little things like this that have made living in Granada even more amazing than it already is! There is always something new to learn and discover here."

Katelyn, who attends Santa Clara University, plans to become a Spanish Professor. Your support and generosity makes this kind of experience possible for women completing their bachelor's degrees. Thank you.

BRANCH UPDATES

**GIFTS FOR TEENS**

Elaine Benoit



Gifts for Teens was a big success filling over 1300 bags. The committee would like to thank the members for their donations and volunteer help assembling bags. A final report will be in the February Bonfire.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Kristen Pendleton, Past Co-President

The Board elected the Nominating Committee at their December meeting. Many thanks to Geri Madden who has agreed to chair and to Bobbie Eckerman, Marjorie Epperson, Cathy Fraser, Judy Kristofferson, Lida Kluzek and Grace O'Leary. The Committee is working hard to put together a terrific slate of officers to serve with incoming President Virginia Beck on the AAUW 2010-2011 San Jose Branch Board. If one of these wonderful women calls and asks you to serve, please say "yes!"

**LUNCH BUNCH**

Cheryl Markman



This month's lunch will be Tuesday, January 26 at 12:00 noon at Tigelleria Organic Restaurant in Campbell. It is located at 76 East Campbell Avenue.

The format will be slightly different than usual, in that it will be a prix fixe menu served family style. We will enjoy a selection of three salads, a pasta dish, an assortment of four meats

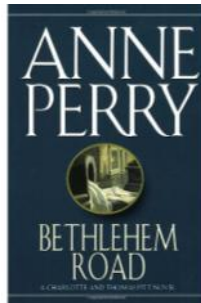
and four cheeses, and Chocolate Salami for dessert.

It will also be a pre-paid luncheon. Your check for \$22.00 made payable to Cheryl Markman is your RSVP. It must be mailed to Cheryl Markman to be received no later than January 21st.

Cancellations after January 23rd cannot be refunded unless your place can be filled. Contact Cheryl if you have any questions.

**MYSTERY LOVERS GROUP**

Diane Canby



In 19<sup>th</sup> century London, Thomas Pitt and his wife, Charlotte, investigate when three members of Parliament are found brutally murdered. The only apparent link is that all voted against women's suffrage. Barbara Bettencourt will lead the discussion of "Bethlehem Road" by Anne Perry at the Mystery Lovers Group meeting at HQ at 7pm on Thursday, January 21st. Please join us!

**WALKING IN THE RAIN**

... OR SHINE

**HIKES & WALKS**

Jean Reed

Rain or shine, we will walk Los Alamitos Trail on Saturday January 9th. It's a paved path along the tree-lined creek roughly parallel to Almaden Expressway.

Plan to meet at Headquarters at 8:30 to carpool. If we have enough cars to shuttle, we'll walk one way (about 5miles) from the south end back to Almaden Lake Park. RSVP to Jean Reed.

**NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS**

Diane Canby & Anne Wustrow

Last month, 16 members from NHN spread holiday cheer by volunteering at the Holiday Boutique hosted by Next Door: Solutions to Domestic Violence. Another group sorted food at the Second Harvest Food Bank.

We are still collecting warm coats (gently used are ok), blankets, etc. for the working poor of Santa Maria Urban Ministry. Please put donations in the parlor closet and mark them for SMUM or contact Diane Canby for drop off info.

Join us at our monthly meeting on Monday, January 4 at 7:00 PM. As always, new members are welcome.

**SUPPORT EQUAL PLAY**



**SPORTS EQUITY**

Jean Reed

Join us to see Stanford play Arizona State in women's basketball on Thursday January 28th at 7pm. Help us continue to fill seats at women's sports events to show our support for the opportunities opened to women through Title IX. Contact Jean Reed if you would like to attend as a group.

**NOVEMBER BRIDGE WINNERS**

Bobbie Eckerman

- Second Monday:** Bob Baker, Pat Mikolic, Bobbie Eckerman
- Second Thursday:** Bobbie Eckerman, Virginia Beck
- Second Friday:** (Duplicate) Darline Wilson, Mary Fitzgerald, Ruth White
- Third Friday:** Mary Claire Hopkins, Zee Del Fuigo
- Fourth Tuesday:** No Bridge

# January 2010 Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, events are held at Headquarters

## Friday, January 8th

**Family History**—10 am  
Santa Clara City Library  
2365 Homestead, 2nd Floor  
Genealogical Collection  
Contact: Fran Sneed

**Bridge**—10 am  
Contact Lida Kluzek & Jean Ritchie

## Saturday, January 9th

**Hikes & Walks**—8:30 am  
Contact: See article  
**Couples' Gourmet**  
Members' homes  
Contact: Margaret Bard

## Monday, January 11

**Bridge**—10 am  
Contact: Rosemary Busch  
**Gourmet Light**—6:30 pm  
Contact: Joan Hildebrand

## Tuesday, January 12

**AM Book Discussion**—9:30 am  
*American Bloomsbury* by Susan Cheever  
Reviewer: Virginia Schlichting

## Wednesday, January 13

**PM Book Discussion**—7 pm  
*Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout  
Contact: Laura Manthey

## Thursday, January 14

**Great Decisions**—9:30 am  
Contact: Judy Kristofferson  
**Bridge**  
Members' homes  
Contact: Bobbie Eckerman

## Monday, January 18

**Exploring World Literature**—9:30 am  
*The Hemingses of Monticello: an American Family*

by Annette Gordon Reed  
Contact: Sue Ann Eichenbaum  
**Gourmet International**—7 pm  
Contact: Pat Moorhead

## Thursday, January 19

**Public Policy**—5:30 pm  
Contact: Loren Reynolds  
**mardi, le 19 janvier**  
**French Conversation**  
Chez Pat Brie  
1818 Kirkland Ave  
San Jose  
Apportez votre sandwich  
RSVP à Pat

## Wednesday, January 20

**Art Appreciation**—10 am  
Los Gatos Art Museum (see article)  
Contact: Diana Taylor

## Thursday, January 21

**Mystery Lovers Group**—7 pm  
*Bethlehem Road* by Anne Perry (see article)  
Led by Barbara Bettencourt  
Contact: Diane Canby

## Tuesday, January 25

**Gourmet Vegetarian**—6:30 pm  
Contact: Mary Ann Roberts

## Tuesday, January 26

**Lunch Bunch**—noon  
Tigelleria Restaurant (see article)  
Contact: Cheryl Markman  
**Bridge**  
Members' homes  
Contact: Bobbie Eckerman  
**Great Decisions**—7 pm  
Contact: Shelley Powers

AAUW Interbranch Council of Santa Clara County

presents

Charlotte Newhart, AAUW California Advocate

PUBLIC INPUT—BETTER OUTPUT:

LEGISLATION YOU CAN SUPPORT FOR CALIFORNIA WOMEN AND FAMILIES

February 6, 2010

Coffee—9:30 am

Program—10:00 am to noon



Camden Community Center, 3369 Union Ave., San Jose, 95124 (Union & Camden, behind Lucky's)

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PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID

Submitting Items to the Bonfire

Deadline: Items must be submitted to the editor for review by the 1st of the month before publication. To submit items:

-Send an e-mail with a Microsoft WORD attachment to Judy Kristofferson at doinel@earthlink.net, or

-Mail a typed copy of your information to Judy Kristofferson 1003 Bennett Way San Jose, CA 95125

Include the meeting name, date, time, location, contact name and phone.

Deadline: All articles must be submitted to the editor for review by the 1st of the month prior to publication.

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