



# BONFIRE



FEBRUARY 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

### Half the Sky—LIVE March 4th

Celebrate International Women's Day. Attending the new film *Woyneshet*, directed by Academy Award Winner Marisa Tomei.

### March General Meeting Autumn Gem: Qui Jin March 13th

Filmmakers Rae Chang and Adam Tow's documentary about a 19th Century heroine and Chinese feminist.

### March—Third Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:30 pm Basic Documents and Concepts of Estate Planning

"Estate Planning Kindergarten" by presenter Pam Dougherty AAUWSJ LAF VP  
An introduction to:  
Wills, Powers of Attorney, Advance Health Care Directives, Special Needs Trusts, Grant Deeds, Community Property, Separate Property, Certification of Trust, Incapacity, Probate, and Pay-on-Death Accounts.

## AAUW INTERBRANCH COUNCIL OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY presents Charlotte Newhart, AAUW California Advocate



*Come and hear how Charlotte Newhart, AAUW California's official advocate in Sacramento, is fighting for "A Bill Package on the Table in Sacramento That We Can Support!"*

- Constitutional protection of civil rights
- Public education and lifelong learning
- Vigorous enforcement of regulations on gender equity
- Research and reform to improve student achievement
- Access to health care and the expansion of patient rights
- Greater access to high quality, affordable family care services
- Freedom from violence and fear in homes, schools, workplaces and communities

Find out how you can help get this legislation passed and this mission accomplished! Join with other branch members and friends on February 6!

February 6, 2010, 9:30 - 12:00 pm

Coffee—9:30 am, Program—10:00 - 12:00 pm

Camden Community Center, Camden & Union Avenues, San Jose, CA 95124

*This is a free community event open to the public.*

Sponsored by the Interbranch Special Projects Foundation - AAUW

## FEBRUARY—THIRD WEDNESDAY



### SANTA CLARA COUNTY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY

#### February 17<sup>th</sup> — 7pm @ HQ Event Coordinator—Geri Madden

The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (SCCOSA) purchased its first property in 1999 and ever since has been working hard to preserve our open space. If you enjoy the open hills surrounding our beautiful valley, this is the event for you. Come find out more about how to enjoy, explore and preserve our open space. Please join us to hear a representative from SCCOSA who will tell us about the organization and how it serves our Community.

**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

**NEW MEMBER—Margaret Akdeniz  
Alma Powell for Membership**

Welcome to our newest member, **Margaret Akdeniz**. A graduate of Georgia State U with a BS and Masters in Education she taught emotionally disturbed students for 12 years before moving to California to attend Santa Clara Univ. Law School. Margaret has since practiced Labor and Employment Law and owns her own firm, which handles employment issues. Margaret belongs to several legal organizations and is a member of the Sierra Club. When time permits her hobbies include traveling, reading, the outdoors, skiing and horseback riding. Margaret is married and the proud 'mom' of a corgi, a Maine coon cat, and a longhaired cat, who is a diva, she explains. We're so glad Margaret has joined our branch especially since she's told us how excited she is to be a member of AAUW.

**HALF YEAR MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW IN EFFECT—TELL YOUR FRIENDS!!!  
Diane Trombetta, Membership—Publicity VP**

Between Jan 1st and Mar 15th, 2010, new members are charged only half the national dues rate of \$49. Their membership will expire June 30, 2010. If someone joins at a public event such as an open house we can take an additional 50 percent off. Guests can join for just \$12.25! After March 15th, new members pay the full national dues of \$49.00 dues but receive almost 15 months of membership for the price of 12. Their membership will expire June 30, 2011. What a deal!!

**BRANCH ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
Jean Reed and Gay Gale—100 year Committee Co-Chairs**

One of the goals of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee was to encourage all branch members to participate in recognizing and celebrating our anniversary. We are proud that so many members and groups did so in a ways that were both meaningful and fun. Here's a review of the past year's activities.

**Art Appreciation** designed and assembled note cards for sale at the Boutique to benefit Local Scholarship.

The **Bridge Groups** are reminded of our 100 year anniversary every time they play a hand of bridge using specially designed score cards which were sold to support the Centennial Fellowship.

In preparation for the branch's 100<sup>th</sup> year celebrations, the **Building Committee** had our Headquarters repainted

in vintage colors.

The San Jose Branch Centennial American Fellowship was established through the work of our **EF** Vice-Presidents. When fully funded, the \$200,000 endowment will provide an annual fellowship in the Selected Professions Program for a woman working toward a graduate degree.

**Great Decisions (AM)** suggested topics that might have been discussed had the group been meeting in our founding year of 1909.

Members of **Hikes & Walks** were available with information about AAUW as community members arrive at Headquarters for a December Volkwalk to see holiday lights in Willow Glen.

The History of the San Jose Branch of

AAUW, written by Diana Taylor, will be published early next year.

The **International Affairs Committee** presented speakers on Fostering Local Empowerment for Women against Global Poverty with a review of the branch history of involvement in international issues.

The **International Gourmet Group** compiled a list of 100 local ethnic restaurants to inspire us to work to help improve the status of women around the world.

The speaker at the **LAF** General Meeting reviewed AAUW's century-long support for pay equity.

The **Local Scholarship** Committee awarded eight scholarships, including a special Centennial Scholarship, to local women.

**HEADQUARTERS IN  
HOT WATER!**

The building committee and all of AAUW would like to thank **Claire Campodonico** and her husband **Keith** for the generous donation of the new water heater that has been installed at headquarters. We all appreciate your thoughtfulness and dedication.

**SUPPORT EQUAL PLAY!  
Jean Reed—Sports Equity Co-Chair**

Grab your sweetheart and join us to see San Jose State play Santa Clara University in women's softball on Sunday February 14. The game starts at 12 noon. It's a fun way to show your support for two local Bay Area women's teams.



BRANCH UPDATES

THANK YOU 100 YEAR COMMITTEE!

Linda Snashall

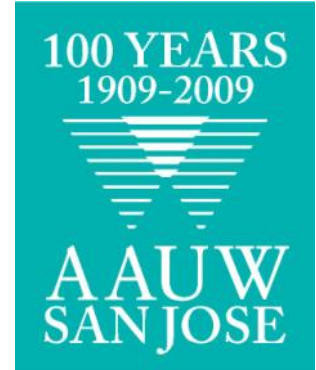
WE HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING BUT GLOWING COMPLIMENTS FOR LAST YEAR'S 100 YEAR CELEBRATION. PRINTED BELOW IS ONE SUCH LETTER WHICH I THOUGHT SUMMED IT UP BEST:

Dear Linda and the Branch Board of Directors:

This is a love letter to you and to all of the board members for all of your efforts to make the 100th Anniversary so successful. What an outstanding year it has been!

A special round of applause to Gay Gale and Jean Reed and the entire 100th Anniversary Year Committee for so competently guiding us through all of the celebratory occasions, capped off with the wonderful Gala! We'll never know how many hours and sleepless nights they spent keeping up with the endless list of details and keeping everyone motivated. Outstanding job!

My congratulations also go to each board member for going above and beyond the job description for her position in order to make it such a memorable year. I noted in the Gala program that the Branch Board was the "work party." All tasks were completed with the perfection and energy that characterize AAUW women. You made the evening so much fun for everyone. Well Done!



LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP AND EDIE KERR—REFLECTING ON THE PAST

Brenda Ladewig

When the branch turned ninety, Edie Kerr was busy chairing the Local Scholarship Committee. Under her leadership, its scope expanded. With continuing needs for fundraising, Edie applied her own artistic skills and began holiday craft sales. It was a small venture housed in the office during the annual holiday tea. Through her hard

work and unending optimism, the craft sale has evolved into a Holiday Boutique worthy of a day of its own. Edie's experience in the branch she founded "up north" helped the committee adopt new practices such as the value of a personal interview with the top scholarship applicants. The interviews have become a highlight of the

committee's work. Meeting a candidate brings reality to the awarding of scholarships. It is with gratitude for her unending work and admiration for her spirit and dedication that we honor Edie Kerr and her leadership for the Local Scholarship Committee.

COURTWATCH UPDATE— RECOGNITION & THANKS FROM THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL

The agenda for the February Domestic Violence Council (DVC) will include a personal recognition of AAUW San Jose on February 5th. The meeting begins at 7:30 am and ends by 8:30 am so that the judges and police officers can get to work on time. Several of our Court Watch team members who have been intricately involved with the development and

implementation of Court Watch in Criminal Court have been invited and will attend the meeting to accept the DVC's token of recognition. The Domestic Violence Council normally meets the first Friday of the month at 70 W. Hedding in the Supervisors' Chambers; parking is free at meters until 9 am.

Congratulations and Great Job Ladies! Linda Snashall.

MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSE FEBRUARY 2ND AT HQ

Cheryl Markman, Membership—Open House VP

The theme for our second Membership Open House is Continuing Education. If you are new to AAUW or just new to our Branch, if you have friends you would like to introduce to us, or if you just want to refresh your knowledge of

some of the wonderful programs we sponsor, please join us. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday February 2 at HQ to socialize and enjoy a light buffet supper. The program, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., will feature Educational Founda-

tion and Public Policy as well as several fun and educational Interest Groups such as Art Appreciation and Friends around the World. Please RSVP to Cheryl Markman if you have any questions.

## BRANCH UPDATES

**NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS**

Diane Canby & Anne Wustrow  
Co-Chairs

Our January activities included running Bingo games at the Julian Street Inn. All proceeds go to helping the clients of this shelter. We also had a group help sort 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. Members can put their donations in the parlor closet and mark them for SMUM or they can contact Diane Canby ([dacanby@comcast.net](mailto:dacanby@comcast.net)) for drop off info. Join us at our monthly meeting on Monday, February 1 at 7:00 PM. As always, new members are welcome.

**ART APPRECIATION**

Cheryl Markman

On February 17, we will venture south to San Juan Bautista. There's a lot to see, so we may go in different directions when we get there. There is a self-guided walking tour of the town. Of course the main attraction is the mission, founded in 1797 (\$3 admission), and the old town area nearby. Some may want to tour the historic homes; others may want to visit the antique shops and art galleries. We can even catch a glimpse of the San Andreas Fault line.

We'll meet somewhere for lunch (again, there are many choices!) and then continue exploring as time and interest allow. We'll meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Costco parking lot on Almaden Expressway (by the fence along Hwy 85) to carpool. Please contact Cheryl Markman at if you want to join us, and please let me know if you can drive. Each passenger will contribute \$3.50 to her driver.

**GIFTS FOR TEENS**

Elaine McMahon

Thanks to all of you for your time, labor and donations. It is another year of big successes for Gifts for Teens. Total number of bags filled was 1,385 (girls 750 totes, boys 635 bags). Recipient agencies were Sacred Heart Community Center (girls 601, boys 500), Bill Wilson Center (girls 110, boys 100), EHC LifeBuilders (girls 39, boys 35) plus blankets and cooler food bags. During the 8 days of assembly, 300 people helped logging about 1100

hours. Thanks to all of you for your part in achieving these great results!

**"HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOHN STEINBECK"**

Jean Reed for Hikes & Walks

Celebrate the birthday of one of California's most famous authors. John Steinbeck was born on February 27, 1902. Open Space docents will lead us on a 6-mile hike along the Skyline Ridge Trail, stopping to share information about Steinbeck's life and literature. At a picnic at Horseshoe Lake, we'll discuss Cannery Row and Sweet Thursday. Bring your books, comments and lunch. Meet at HQ at 8:45am to carpool. We'll be back around 3pm. RSVP to [jjkreed@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jjkreed@sbcglobal.net) so we don't leave without you.

**MYSTERY LOVERS GROUP**

Diane Canby, Mystery Lovers Chair

While canvassing the local women about holding a meeting on women's rights, Glynis Tryon, a small-town librarian, is involved in helping the police find the murderer of a mysterious woman who showed up to lay claim to the inheritance of the library's benefactor. In "Seneca Falls Inheritance", author Miriam Grace Monfredo cleverly mixes murder with the beginning of the women's rights movement. Discussion of the book will be led by Sandra Savage at the Mystery Lovers Group meeting at HQ at 7pm on Thursday, February 18. Please feel free to join us!

**EXPLORING WORLD LITERATURE**

Sue Ann Eichenbaum, World Lit Chair

Our interest group is collecting suggestions for the 2010-2011 year. We will be continuing our theme of books by or about African-Americans or Africans. Suggestions are welcome. Or even better come yourself!

**FAMILY HISTORY**

Susan Brundage  
Family History co-Chair

Family History Group will meet at 8:30 a.m. to carpool to the National Archives in San Bruno to search their military, immigration, etc. records. Lunch will be at nearby Deli or a brown-bag lunch. Call Susan Brundage about carpooling.

**NOVEMBER BRIDGE WINNERS**

Bobbie Eckerman

**Second Monday:** Bobbie Baker, Pat Mikolic, Bobbie Eckerman

**Second Thursday:** Bobbie Eckerman, Virginia Beck

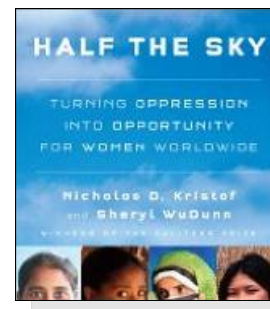
**Second Friday:** (Duplicate) Darline Wilson, Mary Fitzgerald, Ruth White

**Third Friday:** Mary Claire Hopkins, Zee Del Fuigo

**Fourth Tuesday:** No Bridge

**From your AAUW California State Presidents Judy Pfeil and Gloria Taylor AAUW Branches are encouraged to take part in Half the Sky LIVE**

On March 4, CARE will present *Half the Sky LIVE* in movie theaters nationwide. Inspired by the best-selling book, *Half the Sky LIVE* will celebrate International Women's Day with musical performances, celebrity commentary, and the world premiere of



*Woineshet*, a powerful short film directed by Academy Award Winner Marisa Tomei.

*Half the Sky LIVE* is the perfect way for AAUW branches and members across the country to stand in solidarity with women and girls all over the world. Order the book [Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide](#) to read the inspirational stories of extraordinary women struggling under dire circumstances. *Half the Sky* is described as essential reading for every global citizen. AAUW partner, [CARE](#), is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty.

# February 2010 Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, events are held at Headquarters

## FEB 1, MONDAY

**7:00 pm—Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Diane Candy & Anne Wurstrow

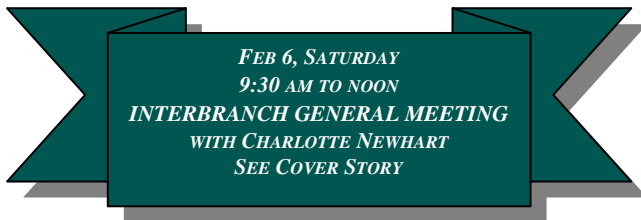
## FEB 2, TUESDAY

**6:00 to 8:00 pm—Membership Open House**

See article page 3.

## FEB 5, FRIDAY

**8:30 am —Family History.** See article page 4.



FEB 6, SATURDAY

9:30 AM TO NOON

INTERBRANCH GENERAL MEETING

WITH CHARLOTTE NEWHART

SEE COVER STORY

## FEB 8, MONDAY

**10 am—Bridge**

Rosemary Busch

**6:30 pm—Gourmet Light**

Joan Hildebrand

## FEB 9, TUESDAY

**9:30am—AM Book Discussion**

Number 1 Ladies Detective Agency

by Alexander McCall Smith

Led by Lida Kluzek & Virginia Schlichting

## FEB 10, WEDNESDAY

**7pm—Evening Book Discussion**

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson

Led by Chris Hawkins

## FEB 11, THURSDAY

**9:30 am—Great Decisions**

Judy Kristofferson

**7:15pm—Evening Bridge**

Members' Homes

Bobbie Eckerman

## FEB 12, FRIDAY

**10 am—Bridge**

Lida Kluzek & Jean Ritchie

## FEB 13, SATURDAY

**Couples Gourmet,** Meets at various homes

Margaret Bard

## FEB 15, MONDAY

**9:30 am—Exploring World Literature**

The Bondswoman's Narrative by Hannah Crafts

Sue Ann Eichenbaum

**7 pm—Gourmet International**

Pat Moorhead

## 16 FÉVRIER, MARDI

**French Conversation**

chez Katie Dent

1220-393 Tasman Drive, Sunnyvale

RSVP à Katie

## FEB 17, WEDNESDAY

**9 am—Art Appreciation**

See article page 4.

Diana Taylor

**7 to 8:30 pm—Third Wednesday Program**

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

See article page 1.

## FEB 18, THURSDAY

**7pm—Mystery Lovers Group.** See article page 4.

Diane Canby

## FEB 19, FRIDAY

**10 am—Bridge**

Lida Kluzek

**6:30 pm—AAUW Singles**

Jean Wyatt

## FEB 22, MONDAY

**6:30 pm—Gourmet Vegetarian**

Mary Ann Roberts

## FEB 23, TUESDAY

**Lunch Bunch**

Pat Mikolic & Rene Welter

**5:30 pm—Public Policy**

Gloria Leonard & Loren Reynolds

**7 pm—Evening Great Decisions**

Shelley Powers

**7:15 pm—Evening Bridge**

Members' homes

Bobbie Eckerman

## FEB 25, THURSDAY

**9:30 am—AM Great Decisions**

Judy Kristofferson

## FEB 27, SATURDAY

**8:45 am to 3 pm—Hikes & Walks**

Jean Reed

See Article page 4

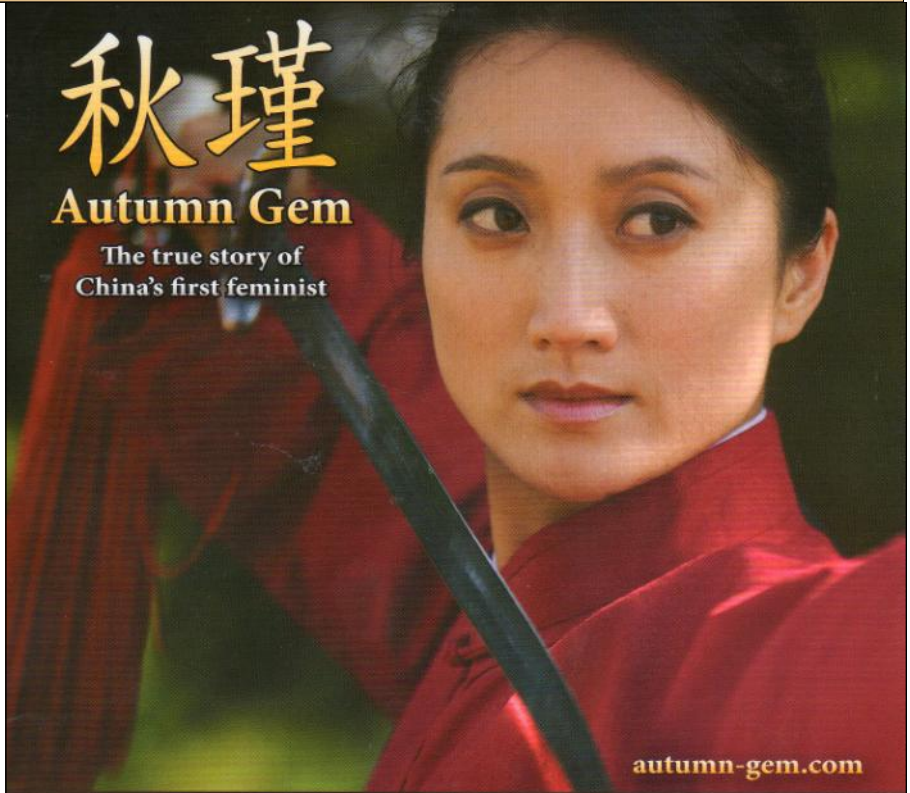
BRANCH UPDATES

AAUW Presents

AUTUMN GEM

Willow Glen Library
Saturday, March 13, 2010
1:00-3:00

Filmmakers Rae Chang and Adam Tow will present their documentary about 19th century activist Qui Jin who is considered a great heroine in China and a key part of a small but important movement of early Chinese feminists. The one-hour documentary tells her story through interviews, archival material and re-creations of scenes from Qui Jin's life. Many scenes for their documentary feature were filmed in the Bay Area. There will be time for questions followed by a reception for the filmmakers at AAUW headquarters next door.



A documentary by Rae Chang & Adam Tow

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San Jose Branch
AAUW Headquarters
1165 Minnesota Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125
Phone: (408) 294-2430

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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The sole purpose of this publication is to convey the association's business to its membership. Only articles and announcements related to branch business will be considered for inclusion.

- President : Linda Snashall 408-266-8143
Membership: Diane Trombetta 408-353-3931
Membership: Elaine McMahan 408-723-8004
Membership: Linda Goldberg 408-353-1916
Membership: Cheryl Markman 408-578-8315
Bonfire Editor: Judy Kristofferson 408-978-0154
Circulation: Alma Powell 408-971-3575
Addresser: Barbara Van Arsdale 408-264-5834
Layout: Peg Carlson-Bowen 408-978-5784