



May 2009

2009 SCHEDULE UPDATES

Centennial Events

May 9	NHN Community Panel
Aug 1	Birthday Barbeque
Aug 20	EF Game Day
Sept. 12	Fall Event
Oct. 24	LAF
Nov. 7	Talents and Interests
Nov. 14	Local Scholarship Boutique
Dec 3	Gala Dinner Party

AAUW National Convention
June 25-28 in St. Louis Missouri

Membership in AAUW is open to anyone holding an associate, baccalaureate or advanced degree from an accredited institution. Undergraduate college students are eligible as student affiliates.

AAUW's Mission

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

AAUW San Jose Vision Statement
AAUW San Jose will provide visible leadership to support all women and girls, will vigorously recruit and retain a diverse membership, and will focus on education, equity, and positive societal change.

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.

AAUW S J Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Invites you to a panel discussion on:

BREAKING THROUGH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BARRIERS WITH OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

May 9, 2009 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

San Jose Cambrian Branch Library 1780 Hillsdale Ave

Learn how Neighbors Helping Neighbors' community partners are positively impacting the lives of the hurting, the homeless, and the working poor by breaking through social and economic barriers with support, education, and empowerment. **Panel participants and displays featuring—Next Door: Solutions to Domestic Violence, Family Supportive Housing, Inc., InnVision, Julian Street Inn, Sacred Heart Community Service, Project Linus, Santa Maria Urban Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, & Destination: Home.**

Question and Answer period following the presentation. Light refreshments will be served. Free & Open to the Public.

On May 9, Fill our bassinet with donations for the Sacred Heart Layette Project (sizes 0-3 months): Baby Wipes, Receiving Blanket, Sweater, Crib Blanket, Baby Lotion/Powder. Bottle Booties, Bib, Bonnet



Three of April's Past Presidents:



SO ...did you guess Mary Ellen Heising, Edie Kerr, & Diana Taylor?



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Soon you will receive a membership renewal form and cover letter. The letter will remind you of the ways; your dues helped to change the lives of women and girls for the better last year, and will give you the opportunity to contribute to the coming year's projects and programs. This is a difficult year to be talking about dues and donations, but your leadership and support as an AAUW member is needed more than ever. Our dues are still the greatest bargain in town: They support advocacy, research, and education which can save women's lives and children's minds right now, and which will someday make equity a reality. Save us the cost of a reminder postcard and help meet Association's deadline for branch dues reports by renewing promptly! Then join fellow members in the many activities, which celebrate our centennial and fulfill our important mission!

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM HI-LIGHTS



International Vice President Marcia Bencala with Diane Trombetta, one of her committee members, at our March General Meeting on Global Development.



Three charming Mexican dancers entertained us at our March General meeting on Global Development

PANEL ON GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT INSPIRES BRANCH MEMBERS

"In my 60 years of AAUW membership, this meeting was one of the most wonderful. I'm so happy to know there are people like the panelists, working on world poverty and really helping people." Edie Kerr.

The presenters at our international program on March 21 suggested many ways we can help women and communities overcome poverty, become educated, and live safe and healthy lives. We thank the representatives from the Global Fund for Women, the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, Opportunity International Global Women's Leadership Network, the International Rescue Committee and the Give Light Foundation for their dedication to the women and children of the world and for their useful suggestions:

Donate to a global development organization of your choice; become its advocate.

Go as a volunteer to a developing country. Join the Peace Corps.

Catholic Charities, World Relief, Jewish Family Services and IRC offer volunteer opportunities in the San Jose area to help newly-arrived refugees. Help a refugee mother to learn English and understand her new country.

Help the Give Light Foundation to find office space in the South Bay; create an opportunity for them to raise awareness; sponsor a child for \$30/month; go to Indonesia or Pakistan to teach and live with the orphaned children.

Sign up for the Global Fund for Women's e-newsletter to learn about women's advances and about events featuring dynamic speakers from around the world.

Learn about strategies for economic empow-

erment that women's groups are using such as **More Than Money: Strategies to Build Women's Economic Power** <http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/cms/publications/reports/> or **Groundbreakers: Using the strength of women to rebuild the world economy.**

Read the work of economists who, with human rights activists, design macroeconomic policies that promote human flourishing, e.g. *How Rich Countries Got Rich and Why Poor Countries Stay Poor*, by Erik S. Reinert or *Rethinking Macro Economic Strategies from a Human Rights Perspective* by Radhika Balakrishnan et al.

Go to www.girleffect.org to learn about the impact of women's empowerment.

Become motivated to join the fight against world poverty by reading Peter Singer's new book, *The Life You Can Save*. You CAN make a difference!

IN REMEMBRANCE OF A PAST PRESIDENT Bonnie Rogers

Dorothy Olson, Past President of AAUW-San Jose Branch 1955-56, passed away in March 2009. Dorothy was our Branch's 44th President and was recently a resident of Saratoga Retirement Community. Our condolences go out to her family and friends.



COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECTS

**TECH EXCELLENCE
AND TECH TREK**

Health sciences careers were the focus of the Tech Excellence field trip for March, hosted by SJSU Nursing and Occupational Therapy Departments. Each department highlighted some of the academic preparation for each career, while providing hands-on experience with diagnostic and patient care medical equipment. Nutrition and fitness was the classroom presentation. The girls participated in a personal fitness assessment of strength, balance, and flexibility. Nutrition labeling portion control helped to show what ingredients makes good meal choices. After careful analysis of food samples, the girls decided "Strawberries" met the best nutritional food criteria, and they actually tasted the best, too!

**TECH TREK AWARDS
Mary Ellen Madden**

Members of Tech Excellence have selected six seventh grade girls to attend the AAUW Tech Trek Science/Math Camp at Stanford University, July 12-18. The selection was based both on the girls essays entitled, "How Can Science Make Our World a Better Place" and recommendations from their math or science teacher. Before the final selection was made, members of Tech Excellence interviewed each girl. The six girls selected this year are Katie Bowles, Sophia Conn and Loren Macdonald from John Muir Middle School; Betsy Rodriguez and Esmeralda Ruiz from Peter Burnett Academy; and Veronika Martinez from River Glen Elementary School.

We were impressed with these girls and know they will be wonderful representatives for us at Tech Trek Camp. We appreciate everyone who donated to Tech Trek this year. Your donations enable us to continue sending outstanding young women like these to Tech Trek Camp. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile AAUW project. Campers will attend daily core science classes given by women on their specialties. Dorm "moms" Elaine Benoit and Kristen Pendleton will assist with camp activities. The science campers will tell the Branch of their adventures on September 12th at this year's Fall Event.

The History Club of Los Gatos donated all the proceeds from their Fall Fashion show to

Tech Trek scholarships. They awarded our branch \$2400 to send three girls from San Jose to Stanford Tech Trek. We are extremely grateful for their generous donation.

**NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS
Virginia Beck & Diane Canby**

April's NHN meeting found members stuffing five "survival sack" backpacks with over 75 personal care items. The backpacks will be distributed to the homeless clients of Sacred Heart Community Service. We are so fortunate to have such generous women who donated ALL of the contents for the backpacks. Thank you!

May 9 will mark NHN's special event, "Breaking through Social and Economic Barriers with our Community Partners." Come join us at the Cambrian Branch Library from 10am to 12 noon to learn how NHN community partners are positively helping the lives of the hurting, the homeless and the working poor. Consider bringing a layette item for our bassinets. (See cover for more information.)

If you or a family member has an outdated or malfunctioning cell phone, please consider donating it to Next Door: Solutions to Domestic Violence. Next Door's community shop also needs pillows, pajamas, disposable diapers, cosmetics and shopping "totes". Donations can be left in the parlor closet at HQ. **Note: No Monday night regular NHN meeting is scheduled for May.**

**HOUSING TOUR - HOUSING ACTION
COALITION
Margaret Bard**

Join us for a tour of innovative housing developed along the new Winchester Light Rail Line. Development along the light rail may give you new ideas of what transit-oriented development can be. Meet in Campbell at 8:30 Saturday morning May 16. Enjoy a continental breakfast as well as lunch with lots of information in between. Registration is \$10. To register call Margaret Bard or go to www.svlg.net. The Housing Action Coalition (sponsored by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group) promotes housing in Santa Clara County. Representatives from NHN attend the meetings as advocates for affordable and decent housing for all.

**LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP HOLIDAY
BOUTIQUE
Brenda Ladewig**

The Local Scholarship Committee thanks our membership for generously supporting Annabelle's Attic these past two years. However, our "attic" is empty, and it's time for a new and improved boutique. This November 14, the boutique will be featuring goodies from the kitchen and beautiful handcrafted items. Would you be willing to donate? If you or someone you know creates crafts, holiday gift items, or holiday décor, please contact Barbara Bettencourt.

**May 19, 2009 California
Special Election
AAUW Supports 1-A thru F
AAUW CA Public Policy Committee**

Judy Pfeil and Gloria Taylor, Co-Presidents AAUW CA
"The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has been a staunch supporter of education and public health measures for 126 years. Our nearly 14,000 members in California sympathize with those who protest proposed cuts. The budget reductions spared few, if any departments, programs or services. At the same time the budget also depends on significant tax increases.... We believe the budget proposals are the best we can expect in this difficult time. AAUW members are asked to take a deep breath and vote yes for the budget issues 1-A, 1-B, 1-C, 1-D, 1-E and 1-F on the May 19 special election ballot. To read the ballot measures, go to www.sos.ca.gov and click on ballot measures." Anne Henke, AAUW CA Public Policy Director, states, "There are no silver bullet solutions to this very knotty budget issue. I believe we do need to try and inform ourselves and our AAUW CA members. This will allow us to cast informed votes on May 19, 2009. Special elections often do not get a good voter response. This is a situation where each vote will be crucial to the future of our state's economic welfare – even though it has many flaws."



Ever wonder who takes care of processing your dues? Meet Barbara Van Arsdale 2009-2010 Branch Membership Treasurer

NEW MEMBER PROFILES:

Gail Hicks

A Wisconsin native, Gail Hicks received her degree in Music from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and began a new life in California. She completed a Masters degree in Music from San Francisco State U. In addition, she spent 18 years in the computer industry as a technical writer. Now she teaches part time at De Anza and Skyline Colleges. She has recently developed an interest in fly-fishing and hopes to take a fishing trip to Alaska this summer.

Alice Lopez

Having retired in June 2008, Alice Lopez now enjoys walking, reading and spending time with her sister in Santa Cruz. Alice got her BA from UCSC and many years later a MA from SJSU. She was in the Education field for 18 years serving, as a teacher, project coordinator, vice principal and principal for 17 years. She also served as a teacher trainer in the Peace Corp (Jamaica) in 1974-76. She has a son and daughter.

Mary Clare Hopkins

Mary Clare Hopkins graduated from SJSU with a degree in Biological Sciences and then worked for various companies for 22 years in software quality before retiring four

years ago. She and her husband have a son, a daughter, and a granddaughter. The couple has visited all seven continents so travel is a huge interest but she doesn't neglect her interest in birding, reading and bridge.

Susan Petrie

A teacher in seventh grade Life Science here in San Jose, Susan Petrie moved here from Rhode Island to be close to her sons who are English and film majors, one at Cal State Northridge and one at UCSB. She graduated from the University of Rhode Island and has studied at UCSD and at Stanford. Susan is interested in history, community service and walking.

Bobby Csaplar

A new retiree, Bobby Csaplar taught Mathematics most recently at Bret Harte Middle School. She is a graduate of UCLA. Bobby met her husband at UCLA and has continued her interest in the university; volunteering on the scholarship committee and serving as a representative at high school and college fairs. Other volunteer work includes with Girl Scouts for 12 years, 10 years at the Children's Discovery Museum. She served for 10 years on Board of Directors at the Tech Museum and on their Advisory Board.

FAMILY HISTORY

Susan Brundage

On Friday, May 1, we will carpool to the Oakland Regional Family History Center, Oakland for a tour and research. Call Co-Chair Sue Eichenbaum for further information. Get started online at www.oaklandfhc.org/. Call Fran Sneed re carpool; tell her if you can provide a ride for others. Carpool meeting time is 9 a.m. in the Safeway parking lot near the gas station at Winchester and Payne.

ROSE GARDEN VOLKSWALK

Jean Reed

Walk throughout the unique Rosegarden neighborhood, through Santa Clara University campus and back to the Rosicrucian Museum. This is a sanctioned Volkswalk open to the public. We plan to meet at HQ on Saturday May 30 at 8:30 to carpool to San Jose Municipal Rose Garden. Volkswalks are non-competitive events that you walk at your own pace. You'll get a "start card" that is validated at control points along the 10k (6 mile) course. We may choose to

have lunch together after the walk to celebrate finishing! RSVP to Jean Reed so we don't leave without you. To find out more on Volkswalk go to www.sbstriders.org.

SUPPORT EQUAL PLAY Jean Reed for Sports Equity

FC Gold Pride began their inaugural season last month, bringing women's professional soccer back to San Jose. The team replaces the defunct San Jose CyberRays. Come support women in sports on May 24th when the Pride meets the Los Angeles SOL. Go to www.fcgoldpride.com for tickets. Enter promotion code BAWSI for a discounted price of \$18 (regular \$25) for Bronze seating areas. Contact Jean Reed if you'd like to attend as a group so we can order tickets together. Remember to report women's sports events that you attend so we can add it to our 100-games log.

ART APPRECIATION Cheryl Markman & Diana Taylor

On Wednesday, May 20, we travel to the Legion of Honor to see *Artistic Luxury: Fabergé, Tiffany, Lalique*. This is the first comparative study of the work of the three greatest jewelry and decorative arts designers at the turn of the 20th century: Peter Carl Fabergé, Louis Comfort Tiffany, and René Lalique. Their rivalry found its stage at the 1900 World's Fair in Paris. Some of their most elaborate designs for the Paris World's Fair are reunited for the first time in a gallery recreating the ambiance of this opulent international exposition. We will meet at HQ at 8:45 a.m. to carpool. Admission to the museum and the exhibit is \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors (65+). We can join a free public docent tour at 10:30 a.m. and have lunch in the museum cafe. Contact Cheryl or Diana by Friday, May 15 if you plan to join us, and please let us know if you can drive.

MYSTERY LOVERS Jean Boyden & Diane Canby

At our meeting on May 21, the Mystery Lover's Group will make a final decision on the 2009-2010 theme. (So far, historical mysteries are in the lead.) Mystery Lovers members if you haven't already done so, vote for a theme now to have a voice in the final decision! Contact Diane Canby with your vote.

INTEREST GROUP PROJECTS COMMEMORATING OUR 100 YEARS

**FAMILY HISTORY CELEBRATES
SAN JOSE AAUW'S CENTENARY**

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the San Jose Branch, members of the Family History Interest Group are writing memories of their mothers and grandmothers and other ancestors. The following is an excerpt from my family history. You may be interested in sharing your family history too. Please send your memories to Sue Eichenbaum to be included in the memory book that we are collecting.

My paternal grandmother had traditional occupations for women at the time. In 1906 she was a stenographer, in 1907 a seamstress, and in 1910 a nurse. Even though these positions were normally held by women, when she married in 1913, she lied on her marriage license and said she was a stenographer. My uncle told me this was because she would have lost her nursing job if the hospital found out she was married.

My mother was an only child. Neither of her parents went to college. Her mother was very proud of having completed high school, and her father left school at age 12 since he was destined to take over the family farm. My maternal grandfather had three older sisters who became teachers (in fact, teachers in one-room schools) and had at least some college. My mother finished high school during the depression and attended college because she would have been unable to get a job. She got her degree in Chemistry. Soon after graduating and finding a job as a chemical librarian, she married. My parents eloped to Santa Cruz. Five years later she was fired because they found out she was married.

**INTERNATIONAL GOURMET
CELEBRATES OUR 100 YEAR**

Grace O'Leary

In honor of our 100th year, the International Gourmet Group created a detailed list of 100 local international restaurants. A bound copy is on display at Headquarters. If you

would like the list emailed to you, send your request to Arline Veteska. Bon appetite!



100 Year Chair GAY GALE at Hayes Mansion honoring our first branch president

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Note: unless noted otherwise all calendar meetings and events are held at HQ.
To contact someone in charge of an event, consult your AAUW Membership Directory

Hikes and Walks meets every Saturday & Sunday morning at HQ at 8:30 am unless noted otherwise. Contact Jean Reed for information

May 1 – Fri. Family History
Susan Brundage
Sue Ann Eichenbaum
See article

May 4 – Monday
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
No meeting

May 6 – Weds. Board Meeting
6:30 Refreshments
7:00 Meeting

May 8 – Fri. 10:00 am Bridge
Lida Kluzek & Jean Ritchie

May 9 – Saturday 10-12
NHN – Panel and Q & A
See front cover for info.

May 9 – Sat. Couples Gourmet
Margaret Bard

May 11-- Mon. 10:00 am Bridge
Rosemary Busch

May 11 – Mon. 6:30 pm
Gourmet Light
Joan Hildebrand

May 12 – Tues. 9:30
A.M. Book Discussion
How the Irish Saved Civilization
Led by Rose Crimi
Maggie Benson & Fran Sneed

May 13 – Weds. 7:00 pm
P.M. Book Discussion
Laura Manthey

May 14 – Thurs. 9:30 am
Great Decisions
Judy Kristofferson
Anne Struthers

May 15 – Fri. 10:00 am Bridge
Lida Kluzek

May 15 – Fri. 6:30 pm
AAUW Singles
Jean Wyatt

May 15 -- Fri.
Deadline for Board Agenda
Linda Snashall

May 15, 16, 17
EF Fundraiser @ Barnes & Noble
See article back cover.

May 16 – Sat. 8:30 am
Housing Tour - Housing Action Coalition (see article)
Margaret Bard

May 18 – Mon. 9:15 am
Exploring World Literature
Havanas in Camelot by William Styron
Sue Ann Eichenbaum

May 18 – Mon. 7:00 pm
Gourmet International
Pat Moorhead

19 mai – mardi 11:00 am
French Conversation
Pat Ragle
104 Twin Oaks Dr.
Los Gatos
Apportez votre sandwich
Nous jouerons le croquet

May 20 – Weds. 10:00 am
Art Appreciation
Diana Taylor. See article

May 21 – Thurs. 7:00 pm
Mystery Lovers
Jean Boyden & Diane Canby
Locked Rooms by Laurie King
Led by Barbara Bettencourt

May 23 – Mon. 6:30 pm
Gourmet Vegetarian
Mary Ann Roberts

May 26 – Tues.
Lunch Bunch
Pat Mikolic
Rene Welter

May 26 – Tues. 7:00 pm
Great Decisions
Shelley Powers

May 28 – Thurs. 9:30 am
A. M. Great Decisions
Judy Kristofferson
Anne Struthers

May 30 – Sat. 8:30 am
Hikes and Walks
Jean Reed

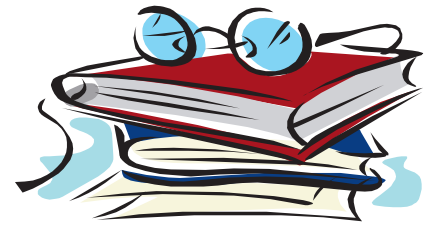
May 31 – Sun.
Deadline for July Bonfire
Judy Kristofferson

EF Bookfair Fundraiser @ Barnes & Noble on Almaden Expressway May 15, 16, 17

BUY BOOKS—DONATE TO THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (EF)

Jean Boyden

Our San Jose Branch Centennial Fellowship endowment is well ahead of expectations, but we still have a long way to go. According to Association records more than \$38,000 was donated in 2008, only \$15,000 by our branch. Los Gatos/Saratoga for example is just one of the other branches which directed their EF funds last year to this new endowment.



We are expanding our fundraising this time to include nonmembers by participating in a Bookfair at Barnes and Noble bookstore on Almaden Expressway near Blossom Hill Road. On May 15, 16 and 17 our branch will receive a percentage of the store receipts for everything except membership and gift cards for all the customers who tell a cashier they want to have part of their payments donated to AAUW. That's it! Even customers who have never heard of us can participate. We plan to have a table in the store to request customers do this, and we would like you to encourage any individuals or groups to take part, as well. Not only is this an excellent fundraiser for us (Roseville—South El Dorado County has found it to be very successful) it is also our chance to tell people about AAUW and what a great organization it is.

Flyers are available at HQ for you to take to other groups; or call Barbara Shaffer or Jean Boyden to request fliers. Also, if you are available to sit at our table in the store some time on any of the three days we would love to have you.

Just to add interest to your summer we will once again play games at History Park. This year Game Day will be August 20. Put the date on your calendar now; details will follow in the June *Bonfire*.

Submitting Items to the *Bonfire*

To submit articles, send an e-mail message in Microsoft WORD attachment to Judy Kristofferson by the first of the month before the ***Bonfire*** is published at doinel@earthlink.net. If you do not have access to a computer, please mail a typed copy of your information, by the deadline, to Judy at 1003 Bennett Way San Jose, CA 95125.

Please send calendar dates for the ***Bonfire*** to Judy Kristofferson at doinel@earthlink.net or 1003 Bennett Way San Jose, CA 95125 with the following information: meeting name, date, time, location, and contact name and phone. Calendar information for any AAUW-related activity can be published.

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**PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID**

BONFIRE ARTICLE SUBMITTAL RULES:
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.

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

***AAUW advances equity for all women and girls, through advocacy, education and research.
See the San Jose Branch Website at www.aauwsanjose.org for more information***