

Volume 39, Number 4

<http://aauw-lgs.org>



Grapevine

December, 2007

Los Gatos/Saratoga Branch
American Association of University Women



Join Friends at our Holiday Party

Sunday, December 9, 2 to 4 pm

At the home of Nancy Anderson

13561 Lomond Court, Saratoga

Call Nancy (or use MapQuest) for directions: 867-4383. Please car pool.

Refreshments provided by Board Members

Message From the President

November and December are very busy months for all of us. Family gatherings, shopping, food preparation and social commitments all require energy and thought.

If there are young children, grandchildren, and as in my case, great grandchildren in your life, it can be a time of joy as they experience this holiday season.

I hope you will take the time to come to our holiday party at the beautifully decorated home of Nancy Anderson. It is a time to enjoy the friendship of AAUW members and share the good things in our lives. I look forward to seeing many of you at this event.

Happy Holidays
Gladys Armstrong, President

AAUW Action Network: Congress Must Fix the Supreme Court's Ruling

If you are unable to view HTML emails, copy and paste the following link into your browser: <http://www.aauw.org/postcards/FairPayAction.cfm>

Congress Must Fix the Supreme Court's Ruling. Take Action!

On November 1, the AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps visited senators to urge them to sponsor and support the Fair Pay Restoration Act (S. 1843). They delivered letters of support from AAUW and over 200 coalition partners, and several members also delivered letters from select AAUW states and branches. AAUW members have been very supportive of this bill, and many of you have already contacted your members of Congress on this issue. However, AAUW asks you to take action on this legislation again to show a critical mass of support at this time and send a strong signal to your senators that pay discrimination will not be tolerated.

The Supreme Court's decision in the *Ledbetter v. Goodyear* case in May severely limited the ability of victims of pay discrimination to sue under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Fair Pay Restoration Act restores the law to the way it was previously applied to be consistent with Congress' intent and the Court's own precedents. The bill would also apply to all claims of discrimination in compensation. Thanks to the hard work of AAUW members and other coalition partners, the House passed its companion bill, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (H.R. 2831), in July.

AAUW believes the outcome in *Ledbetter* is fundamentally unfair to victims of pay discrimination, which is responsible for a significant portion of the wage gap experienced by women and people of color. Although the wage gap has narrowed over the years, success in closing the gap remains elusive, and the Supreme Court's recent decision in the *Ledbetter v. Goodyear* case will make it even more difficult for women workers and employees of color to close the wage gap.

Take Action! (To urge your senators to cosponsor the Fair Pay Restoration Act, copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser. If your senators have already signed on as cosponsors, you will be able to send them a thank you message.

[http://capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?alertid=10408586&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/aauw/issues/alert/?alertid=10408586&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

(Editor's Note: The above URL is one long string of characters with no spaces.)



BRANCH COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Committee on Homeless Women and Children

At our last meeting, we welcomed Suzahna Palmer as a new member of our committee. We were fortunate that she joined us since she enjoys taking pictures, and we needed a photographer for the English Tea. Tea plans are being developed, and assignments have been made. Please be sure to circle March 8, 2008, on your calendar for the English Tea.

A group of members prepared and served a Thanksgiving Brunch/Lunch at the Georgia Travis Center on Thursday, November 15. The clients enjoyed the turkey, ham, breads, fruit salad and pumpkin breads and cookies.

As mentioned in the last Grapevine, our annual Holiday Brunch at the Georgia Travis Center will be held on Thursday, December 13. We are asking Branch members to donate gifts. Suggestions for gifts: fancy socks, scarves, sweat shirts (large and extra large), jewelry, makeup. If you wish, you can bring your items to the Branch Holiday Part on Sunday, December 9, at the home of Nancy Anderson. The committee members will wrap the gifts on December 11. Thank you very much for your support!

Sumi Tanabe

Directory Changes

Barbara Allen received her RN Diploma from the Presbyterian School of Nursing.

Barbara Hawkes email is: f.hawkes@worldnet.att.net (change p. 37)

Margie Mercant received her BA from UC Berkeley and her MA from SJSU. Phone number: 408-356-5390. Zip code is 95032.

Tech Trek News

Marie Wolbach and Nancy Andren have been looking for another school for a seventh camp. They have found it. There will be two sessions at Stanford. One will convene the week of Sunday, July 13 through Saturday July 19 and the other will start Sunday, July 20 through Saturday, July 26. The staff we have been working with will staff the first session and they are looking for people to staff the second session.

They hope to keep the camps smaller with about 80 girls in each. 160 is just 30 more than the single session at Stanford last year. All the camps are full and the 30 additional spaces will help with overflow from the other camps. The price this year at Stanford will be \$800 per girl.

In order to make the new camp successful, they will need a Director and assistant director, dorm mothers and another health aide so look at your schedules and see if one of the weeks is open and you can volunteer. There is free room and board at Stanford. Working on the camp means that one doesn't need much sleep and also likes 13-year-old girls. Almost all are great kids. Since the beginning of Tech Trek, we have sent over 20 girls, and we really ought to help with staff. Linda Hagelin taught Marine Biology one year and can tell anyone that asks what it is like.

With a few more donations we will have enough to send 4 girls. If you are interested in helping in any way, please call Nancy Hobbs, 395 4045 or email, hobbsnmf@earthlink.net.

Nancy Hobbs

Being On Your Own

Our next meeting will take place on December 19th from 1 to 3 pm at the home of Joan Kjemtrup. Our topic this month will be home maintenance. Joan is going to take us through her home and discuss the aspects of home maintenance which should concern us.

We are compiling a list of reliable maintenance people such as plumbers, carpenters, and painters so please bring any names you want included.

Joan's address is 15950 Rochin Terrace in Los Gatos and her phone number is 408-356-6016. Please call her if you are able to come.

Topics of future meetings will be connecting socially and cooking for one.

Sarah Model

Support Our Local Scholarships

Hakone Gardens
Friday, February 22, 2008
Enjoy our
afternoon program and
Tour the Gardens
on your own

Details in the January
Grapevine
or call Virginia Turner
(408) 866-4234

December 2007 AAUW Calendar

(Calendar items due on the 8th of the month to Mary Ellen Madden @ Lipetska@aol.com)

- 3 Monday Board Meeting 4 to 6 pm** at the Saratoga Fire Station, corner of Saratoga Ave. & Saratoga/Los Gatos Road.
- 9 Sunday Holiday Party, 2 to 4 pm**, at the home of Nancy Anderson, 13561 Lomond Ct., Saratoga. Please see front page for details.
- 11 Tuesday Committee for Homeless Women and Children, 12:00 noon** at the home of Nancy Anderson, 13561 Lomond Ct., Saratoga. Potluck lunch and wrapping gifts for homeless women. For information, please call Sumi Tanabe, 253-6191.
- 11 Tuesday Conversation in Spanish 1:30-2:30 pm** at the Saratoga Senior Center, Fireside Room. Anyone who speaks a little Spanish is welcome. Contacts: Sharon Kelkenberg, 867-0588 or Helen Lemmon, 867-0575.
- 12 Wednesday Let's Do Lunch at 11:30 am** at The Plumed Horse, 14555 Big Basin Way, Saratoga. Hostess: Barbara Hawkes, 395-4397. Chair: Jean Power, 356-5122. Please come and celebrate the Holiday season with us.
- 13 Thursday Hikes and Walks, meet promptly at 9:00 am** in the *Los Gatos Park and Ride Lot*. Holiday Hike and Party. One of our favorite hikes – Fall Creek under redwoods. Visit the old mill site. We will lunch at the friendly Hallcrest Winery. Bring holiday “goodies” to share for lunch. Kay will provide drinks, plates and utensils. P.S. if the weather is *really poor*, we will party at Kay's at 11:30 am. Call Kay Duffy 867-0508.
- 18 Tuesday PM Book Review, 7:00 pm** at the home of Elaine McKim, 104 Wollin Way, Los Gatos. RSVP to Elaine, 356-7432. Bring a book, poem or reading to share and finger food. Co- Chairs: Pat Khan, 741-1616 and Marlene Lamb, 356-8441.
- 19 Wednesday Being on Your Own, 1 to 3 pm** at the home of Joan Kjemtrup, 15950 Rochin Terrace, Los Gatos. Phone: 356-6016. Topic: Maintaining your home.
- 27 Thursday Back By Noon Hike, meet promptly at 9:00 am** at Argonaut Center, Saratoga by Longs.

Great Decisions

Organizers have had an outstanding response to solicitations for participants in the Great Decisions 2008 program. Enrollment was closed on November 30 and all sessions are scheduled to begin on February 7. This year's eight featured topics are: Iraq End-game, European Union at 50, Talking to Our Enemies, Russia, U.S. Defense and Security Policy, Latin America, U.S-China Trade Policy, and Private Philanthropy.

As in past years, Great Decisions 2008 is sponsored locally by the

League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, the Saratoga Area Senior Coordinating Council (SASCC), and the Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC). Participants will take part in one of three groups which will meet in the same locations as in past years. They are as follows: Group 1 in eight bi-weekly sessions held on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. at the SASCC, which is also called the Saratoga Retirement Center near the Saratoga City Hall; Group 2 in

eight consecutive weekly sessions from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the SRC; and, Group 3 in eight consecutive weekly sessions from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the SRC.

For questions regarding Group 1, please contact Anne or Al Stewart at (408) 358-3177 and for Groups 2 or 3, please contact Rosalie Price at (408) 741-7670.

Al Stewart

20 mistletoe species are endangered. Two kinds of mistletoes are native to the United States: the American mistletoe (the one commonly associated with our kissing customs) and the dwarf mistletoe. American mistletoe is found from New Jersey to Florida and west through Texas. The dwarf mistletoe, much smaller than its *kissing* cousin, is found from central Canada and southeastern Alaska to Honduras and Hispaniola, but most species are found in western United States and Mexico. Mistletoe is no newcomer to this country: excavations of packrat middens reveal that dwarf mistletoes have been part of our forests for more than 20,000 years. Some fossil pollen grains even indicate that the plant has been here for millions of years. Says Bennett: "Mistletoes should be viewed as a natural component of healthy forest ecosystems, of which they have been a part for thousands, if not millions of years."

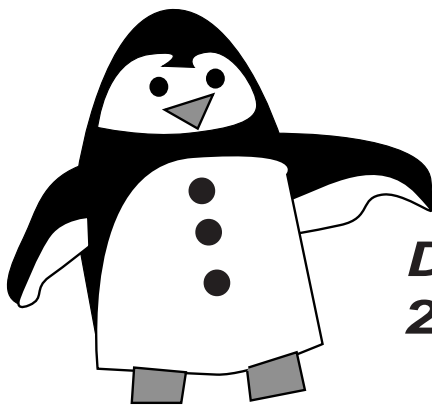
From USGS home page: <http://www.usgs.gov>

Perhaps some of you have already experienced a sweet holiday smooch or two under the Christmas mistletoe, enjoying this fairly old kissing ritual for people. But mistletoe is important in other vital ways: it provides essential food, cover, and nesting sites for an amazing number of critters in the United States and elsewhere. In fact, says Rob Bennett, a USGS research scientist, some animals couldn't even survive without mistletoe, including some birds, butterflies, and insects. But first, a little bit about the plant. The white-berryed Christmas mistletoe we hang so hopefully in places where our sweethearts will find us lingering, is just one of more than 1,300 species of mistletoe worldwide. Globally, more than



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The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is California's most active and diverse organization for women offering: action for equity, personal and professional growth, community leadership, and friendships.

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

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