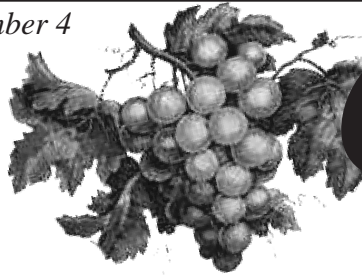


Volume 40, Number 4

<http://aauw-lgs.org>



Grapevine

*Los Gatos/Saratoga Branch
American Association of University Women*

December 2008



*Join the
Holiday Gathering!*

*at the home of
Nancy Anderson*

*13561 Lomond Court
Saratoga, CA*

*Sunday, December 14
from 2 to 4 pm*

*Merriment
Conversation
Laughter*



with your AAUW friends

Message From the President

The Social Security System is so huge and so complex I haven't known very much about it. I was fascinated to learn something about it from AAUW.

"AAUW is committed to a Social Security system that provides lifelong protections for women and families that include guaranteed benefits with cost-of-living adjustments.

Social Security Is More Than a Retirement Plan

Social Security provides lifelong family protections - For a young family, Social Security provides the equivalent of a \$400,000 life insurance policy and a \$350,000 disability insurance policy.

Just half of all Social Security beneficiaries receive benefits solely as retired workers.

Remaining Social Security beneficiaries are children (8%),

widows (11%), and people with disabilities (12%), spouses (6%), and dually eligible/worker and spousal benefits (13%).

Social Security supports more children (5.4 million) than TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (4 million).

Women Are More Dependent on Social Security Than Are Men

Women earn less than men.

Women are half as likely as men to receive a pension.

Women have shorter work histories due to care giving responsibilities.

Women on average live longer than men.

Women Need Guaranteed Benefits They Can Count On

Without Social Security, more than half of all women 65 and older would be below the poverty level.

Social Security benefits are the only source of income for many elderly women and persons with disabilities.

Older women of color are poorest in retirement.

Unlike finite private accounts or 401k plans, Social Security benefits are guaranteed throughout a person's lifespan. This is particularly important to women, who live longer on average than men do."

Social Security obviously affects some of us more than others, however it is good to know that AAUW's advocacy efforts are working to assure that the needs of women are met in this area.

I find that whenever I spend a little time looking at the website aauw.org I learn something useful. I recommend it whenever you have the chance.

Margaret Bard

Legal Advocacy Fund - New Focus Starts in January 2009

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund's new focus on strategic litigation and working in collaboration with civil and women's rights organizations has a strong potential for establishing the precedent of making significant contributions to advancing equity or reducing discriminatory workplace practices for all women and girls.

For more information, read page 3 of *AAUW California Perspective*: "LAF Shifts Its Focus".

PS. Please complete the survey (last page of *AAUW California Focus* and mail or FAX it to AAUW California.

Betty Maminski – LAF VP

Recognized, Linda Hagelin

Mary Ann Cook's wrote the following article in the October 28, 2008, issue of the *Saratoga News*.

"LOCAL HISTORIAN RECOGNIZED: Linda Hagelin recently received a certificate of achievement from the Santa Clara Valley History Symposium. People from more than 30 museums in the Santa Clara Valley attended.

Hagelin, the Saratoga Historical Foundation's education programs director, was recognized for developing the curriculum for teaching the lifestyle of the 1800s for third- and fourth-graders-as well as adults-using the local historic McWilliams House. Hagelin and a group of volunteers teach the program to public and private schools in Saratoga and Cupertino.

If interested in participating, contact Hagelin at 408-867-4311 or Linda@Saratogahistory.com."

AAUW adds congratulations to our member, Linda Hagelin.

Sarah Model



Branch Information

Educational Foundation Grants for 2008-09

On October 26th, Carol Howard and I had the pleasure of attending the annual Northern California EF Fellows Luncheon where six of the current fellows from California spoke briefly about their research or project which AAUW – EF funded. While listening to their stories, we heard repeatedly how much they truly appreciated the fellowships and grants and how it made a difference in their lives.

Our local branch contribution (thanks to your individual generosity, the proceeds of the annual Authors' Luncheon and contributions by the bridge groups in our branch) was over \$6, 000 for 2008 and California continues to be the top contributor to EF. For the academic year, the combined efforts of AAUW branches yielded \$4,452,200 in grants to 271 recipients. Yes, that's about 4 Ω million dollars! As you can see, AAUW is still one of the largest sources of funding exclusively for graduate women.

You might find the following breakdown of the grants for 2008-09 interesting.

American Fellowships:

Total Fellowships	97
Eligible Applicants	1,116
Total Awards	\$1,997,000

International Fellowships:

Total Fellowships	75
Eligible Applicants	1,050
Countries Represented	122
Total Awards	\$1,486,000

Selected Professions:

Total Fellowships	29
Eligible Applicants	71
Total Awards	\$380,200

Career Development:

Total Grants	35
Eligible Applicants	809
Total Awards	\$350,000

Community Action Grants:

Total Grants	35
One Year Grants	17
Two Year Grants	18
Eligible Applicants	142
Total Awards	\$259,000

As you can see, the competition for these grants is keen with over 3,100 applicants vying for 271 grants!

I know I speak for all of the many EF grant recipients when I thank you for your generous and continued support of EF.

Louise Quenon, EF - VP

Branch Bylaws Updated

On November second, our Board of Directors reviewed and approved several changes to the Branch Bylaws and Policies. These changes were made at the request of AAUWCA. The changes mainly clarified already existing Branch Bylaws. When Bylaw changes are required by the national Association or AAUWCA, they do not require a vote by the membership at large.

The Board thanked Marge Bunyard, Bylaws Chair, for her work on this matter and for putting the Documents into Microsoft Word, typing all 13 original pages as well as the changes. Margaret Bard, President, and Sharon Kelkenberg, Parliamentarian, met with Marge after the Board's initial review of the requested changes at their October meeting.

If you would like to read the updated Bylaws and Policies, please email Marge for a copy at gmbun@pacbell.net. A printed copy will also be available at the November and December Branch meetings. Section Chairs, in particular, need to be familiar with the Bylaws and Policies.

Sharon Kelkenberg

Independent Women

We held our October 15 meeting at the home of Joan Kjemtrup. We had 12 participants, including 3 non-members. Our speaker, Gwen Cross, is a crime prevention officer and volunteer coordinator for the LG-Monte Sereno Police Department.

She encouraged us to never be embarrassed to call the police. She said the police always preferred to be called even if it turned out that there was no threat because calling them prevented many things from going wrong and we never knew ahead of time whether the perceived-threat would be serious or not. She told us if someone had entered our house to get out of it immediately and let the person who entered get out immediately so they were not trapped.

She suggested that, while going on a trip, to have a neighbor collect our mail and newspaper as stopping them alerts people that we are away. She said to trust our gut instincts and always be aware of our surroundings. If someone suspicious is around you, always make eye contact so the person knows you are aware.

She left pamphlets on Personal Security, her main topic, Identity Theft, Neighborhood Watch, and new laws on cell phones while driving. She told us to program the local police numbers (Saratoga, Los Gatos, Campbell, etc.) on our cell phones as 911 goes directly to the CHP and it takes time to reach the proper police station. Just knowing that fact, made going to the meeting worthwhile.

Joan and I went to the membership meeting on November 20 and included the brochures on our membership table.

We welcome any of you who are interested to our future meetings. Please see your Grapevine for details.

Sarah Model

Committee on Homeless Women and Children

On December 11th, our Committee takes a Holiday Party to the Georgia Travis Drop-In Center (GTC). We take them a delicious brunch and gifts for each of the women. Many of you in our branch know that we have been doing this over the years, but you may not know the significance of this event.

Sure, we are taking food as we do all year, and sure we are donating to GTC again, but this time it is different, it is a coming together of “them” and “me” and becoming an “us”. It is a day of sisterhood.

As we AAUWs bustle about setting up the brunch table and piling the boxes and bags on the gift table, the GTC women gather about us offering to help, wanting to do their part. After the meal, and then during the gift opening, it is laughter and teasing and oh’s and ah’s. Problems, challenges, life differences are forgotten as everyone there joins in the fun.

How often we AAUW women have stood behind the table ready to serve and watched the approaching homeless or at-risk women. There we are, having had an education, that not only enabled us to able to earn a living, but to make thoughtful life choices. In our homes, which by the way, if most of us sold them, would make us instant millionaires, are computers bringing us into the 21st Century play, refrigerators stocked with food, a closet full of clothes which mainly serves to be a negative as “I have to get rid of this stuff” and “I have nothing to wear”. We have seen doctors for birth control, dentists for aching teeth, lawyers to handle how to disperse our fortunes, therapists to help us wrestle with drug addiction, alcoholism, battering husbands, or our own inner demons.

In front of us reaching for another serving of quiche (as you can guess, not the usual menu item!) is the 50-year-old woman that lives under the bridge alongside Guadalupe Park. Three of her front teeth are missing, causing her to cover her mouth when she laughs. Her eyes are bright, maybe too much? Is it drugs? Or is it that she is smart, able to have gone to college and now have an MBA, and sees a world beyond our comprehension?

As we see this woman and the others there, we feel that same clutch in the belly we felt when we saw the woman in Somalia in the middle of the dirt road fall to her knees as she saw, for the first time, the pile of rubble that was once her house. Or it is the quick springing of tears to the eyes as we hear Colin Powell describe a picture from a magazine. It was of a mother with her head resting on the tombstone of her son, an American kid born in New Jersey, now dead at 20 in service of our country. She was wearing the Muslim headscarf.

It is at these moments that our sense of sisterhood overcomes our differences and we are united in what all we women feel inside. Bravo! To AAUW and what we do.

For information and how to donate to the gift giving at GTC please contact Nancy Anderson – Dander2567@aol.com, 867-4383.



Impact of the AAUW California Tech Trek Science Camp for Girls

published in 2007

Respondents were enthusiastic about their time at Tech Trek; many felt it was the most influential personal or academic experience of the middle school years.

Respondents indicated much higher levels of science and math course taking in their high school years than the national average, as well as increased participation in AP science and math courses. They also exceeded national norms in terms of college attendance and majoring in science and math oriented fields. All participants credited Tech Trek camp for encouraging their interest in science and math-related careers.

This following is from the executive summary of the survey report of previous Tech Trek campers. The girls wrote comments on the survey. Here are two:

“I doubt that I would be pursuing a degree in chemical engineering if not for Tech Trek. After learning about AIDS and attempts at finding a cure, I knew without a doubt that I was going to do something like that one day. To see that science can be fun and enable you to do amazing things motivated me to take more difficult classes in the field. It was a great experience, one that I would recommend to anyone. Thank you for that.”

“Tech Trek was a wonderful experience that I have never forgotten. I loved spending a week on a college campus and getting to think about the possibilities of attending college one day. Now that I am in college, I can’t help but to think about how experiences like Tech Trek helped put me on the path that I needed.”

Look for more comments from the Tech Trek campers in the Grapevine each month.

Nancy Hobbs
Tech Trek Co Chair

Marie Wolbach Leadership Award

Marie Wolbach received the Pine Manor College Award for Inclusive Leadership and Social Responsibility. Her acceptance speech was about how Tech Trek evolved and how it has affected so many young women over the years. Here are some of the highlights of her speech.

‘The idea was born from reading the AAUW report *How Schools Shortchange Girls* in 1992, identifying with many items in it, and thinking about concrete ways to change things. Her own children’s short science camp experiences and hearing of Ohio’s weekend of science camp gave her the idea of time spent living of a college campus and including girls across California.’

In 1996 when AAUW-CA President, Karen Manelis, and the Board of Directors approved Marie’s submission of a grant to the AAUW Educational Foundation. EF funded the request in 1997 and serious planning for Tech Trek began.

The first camp opened at Stanford University in 1998 with AAUW branches supporting 150 students, twice as many girls as we had predicted.

The stated goals of Tech Trek were to:

1. Encourage young women to take math and science courses each year in high school
2. Motivate students to attend college.
3. Inspire young women to select majors which lead to careers in science, technology, engineering or math.

Two unstated goals were to build self-confidence and leadership in the attendees. Those were met in the first year. The student chosen by Sacramento AAUW was a very quiet girl, daughter of Hmong immigrants, who never left their new city. She was thrilled to see San Francisco and the ocean, telling Marie that she wished she could stay another week. Later, the Sacramento branch president shared the exchange that took place when the student gave a report at the September AAUW meeting. She said she ran for class president and won. When asked if she had planned that for a long time, she replied, ‘‘Oh, no. I never expected to do that. Then when AAUW picked me to go to science camp, I thought that if they did that, maybe I could do some other things, too.’’

Why are 7th grade girls selected? That’s because the information in the research report that showed girls tend to drop the more challenging subjects at that time to spend more time in social activities. One girl that attended Tech Trek still thinks of how much fun it was and how excited she got when she extracted DNA from kiwi fruit. Taking microbiology in college gave her that same feeling and she has declared that as her major. The quote of this girl’s experience was from the survey of previous campers taken in 2006. They received grants from the AAUW Educational Foundation and the Morgan Family Foundation to do follow-up with students from the first five years. They learned that the experience was quite profound for most of them. One wrote, ‘‘My middle school experience with wonderful teachers and fun and diverse students in a campus atmosphere at

AAUW Tech Trek Science Camp is one of the reasons I am presently studying Molecular and Cellular Biology at Harvard.’’

The number of girls who later took advanced courses in math and science were far above the national average. Many claimed that Tech Trek was their best academic experience in middle school or high school.

Those surveyed students are now enrolled in at least 110 different colleges, and 54% indicate that they are majoring in one of the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, math).

Nearly 6,000 girls have attended Tech Trek since 1998, and they indicate that it had a positive impact on them.

Marie has several more quotes from the Tech Trek girls. This article is somewhat a condensed version and if you are interested in the whole speech, please contact Margaret Bard.

Nancy Hobbs

Remembering Frank Lemmon

At the Board Meeting on November 3, it was decided to honor Frank Lemmon’s significant contributions to our Branch and AAUW by designating him as an Educational Foundation Named Gift Honoree. If you would like to contribute to EF in his memory, donations may be sent to Louise Quenon, 20297 Thelma Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070. Checks should be made to AAUW – EF and please indicate in the memo line that your gift is in memory of Frank Lemmon. This posthumous award will be presented at the EF Potluck Luncheon in April.

Louise Quenon, EF-VP

HELP SELECT OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Our branch has been very generous in supporting our Local Scholarships financially; now we are looking for your help in selecting the recipients of those scholarships.

This is your chance to get to know some amazing young women! They are very dedicated to completing their education, sometimes working two or three jobs to pay their own way and helping to support the rest of their families. Several have come from other countries and have struggled to learn English and adapt to American ways while maintaining their academic progress. Many are the first women in their family to attend college.

Our typical applicant is an outstanding student in her own classes and also serves as a tutor to other students who may need a little extra attention. She has overcome incredible obstacles, even to attend the community college, and faces even more when she moves on to a four-year institution, but she is excited about her chosen field and has big dreams for her career and her future success.

We have already organized our fundraising event for Tuesday evening, February 24, 2009, when we will enjoy a musical program put on by the Mission Valley Chorus, straight from their performance at world-renowned Carnegie Hall in New York. Proceeds from this fun event, plus donations that come throughout the year, should allow us to award 2 or 3 scholarships, ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 each. It would be great if we could award each of our applicants a scholarship because they are all so terrific!

Scholarship applications will be submitted by March 23, 2009, and the Local Scholarship Committee will review them and make their decisions early in April. The recipients will be invited to our EF Potluck Luncheon on Saturday, April 25, so that everyone can meet them and get better acquainted.

Our committee includes several AAUW members and representatives from West Valley College; we would welcome additional members. Please call me at (408) 866-4234 if you have any questions about the Local Scholarship program.

Virginia Turner
Local Scholarship Committee Chair

Public Policy

According to AAUW, the election of Barack Obama as President of the United States will help girls and women. Also more women were elected to both houses of Congress and two new women were elected governors.

The number of elected women has increased significantly. The legislation that will benefit women and girls is likely to pass on the Obama watch. President Elect, Obama, mentioned the Ledbetter Equal Pay Bill during one of the debates and will push it through the Congress and sign it. There are plans leaking out of the transition group that indicate Mr. Obama will overturn Bush Executive orders regarding stem cell research and disallow oil and gas drilling being leased now in sensitive public lands. The new chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, said Congress needs to move quickly on extending unemployment insurance benefits, and to offer states a lift in paying health insurance.

When Congress meets in January, Mr. Emanuel stated they should tackle a wider economic stimulus package that includes middle-class tax breaks. Women have been particularly hard by the Bush policies that have left the middle class in distress.

The new congress, which will include many more Democrats, should be supportive of Mr. Obama's ideas. Not only will the makeup of Congress change, but also there will be many switches of committee chairs. Sen. Byrd stepped down from his chairmanship. There also will be replacements appointed or elected to fill Mr. Obama's, Mr. Biden's, Mr. Emanuel's and, presumably, Senator Kennedy's seat. It is expected that the President elect will tap other Congressman or women to serve in his cabinet.

AAUW is pleased with the outcome of the election and believes the new administration will be more responsive to AAUW goals in science and math education, the environment, and labor issues.

Galdys Bernyk

Directory Corrections

Sincere apology to those whose information may need correction in the Directory:

Miss Atha Jane Haywood's name is the correct spelling, and Elizabeth Moran's ZIP Code should be 95136.

If you find any errors in your own information, please contact Barbara Lea at 408-354-2287 or barbara.lea@comcast.net.

December 2008 AAUW Calendar

- 1 Monday Board Meeting, 3:30pm**, at the Saratoga Fire Station, corner of Saratoga Ave & Saratoga/Los Gatos Road.
- 2 Tuesday Conversation in Spanish 1:30-2:30pm (only meeting this month)** at the Saratoga Senior Center, Fireside Room. Any one who speaks a little Spanish is welcome. Contacts: Sharon Kelkenberg, 867-0588 or Helen Lemmon, 867-0575.
- 4 Thursday Trail Clean up, meet promptly at 9:00am** in the Los Gatos Park and Ride.
- 9 Tuesday Committee for Homeless Women and Children, 7:00-9:00pm** at the home of Nancy Anderson, 13561 Lomond Ct., Saratoga. Potluck and gift wrapping. For information call Sumi Tanabe, 253-6191 or Nancy Anderson, 867-4383.
- 10 Wednesday Let's Do Lunch, 11:30am** at La Rinconada Club, Los Gatos. Hostess: Nancy Christensen, 356-1181. Chair: Jean Power at 356-5122. Visitors and Guests are welcome.
- 11 Thursday Holiday Hike and Party, meet promptly at 9:00am** at Los Gatos Park and Ride lot. One of our favorite hikes – along the banks of Fall Creek under the redwoods. 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 11:30am. Call Kay Duffy 867-0508.
- 14 Sunday December Holiday Party, 2-4pm** at Nancy Anderson's Home. See front page for details.
- 16 Tuesday PM Book Review, 6:30pm (note change of time)**, Saratoga Retirement Center. Entry at Pavillion Building. RSVP to Licia Thomson, 741-7611. Bring finger food, and a poem or favorite reading to share. Co-chairs: Pat Khan 741-1616 and Marlene Lamb 356-8441.
- 26 Friday Back By Noon Hike, the day after Christmas (Walk off the food!). Meet promptly at 9:00am** at Argonaut Center, Saratoga by Longs.



Los Gatos-Saratoga AAUW Welcomes the New Members

Brenner, Beth*

14241 Juniper Lane
Saratoga, CA 95070
bbrenner@thebrennergroun.com
408-867-1063
Montclair State, NJ – BS, Biology
San Francisco State – MS, Health Science

Chapman, Chris (Mrs. Terry)

201 Mistletoe Road
Los Gatos, CA 95032
chapmantmc@comcast.net
408-378-4370 408-218-2053 Cell
Ohio Univ – BS, Child Development

Comport, Mary Ellen (Mrs. Wm. J.)

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mecomport@comcast.net
408-354-4316
UCLA – BA, Sociology

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Ohio State Univ – BS, Home Econ
Univ of Tennessee – MS, Textiles & Clothing

Matsumura, Debbie

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McCall, Jennifer

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Joyce Rastatter

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Reischl, Susan

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Cal State Long Beach – MS, Criminal Justice Admin
Southwestern Univ School of Law – JD

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