

# Grapevine

Los Gatos/Saratoga Branch

American Association of University Women

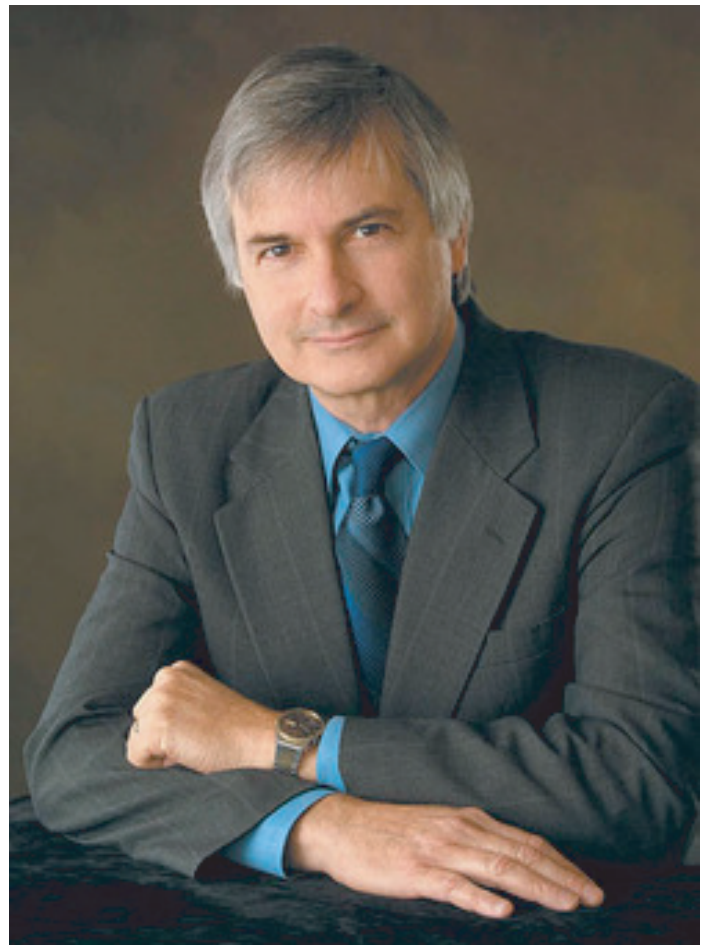
May, 2008

## General Meeting and Installation of 2008-09 Officers

Saratoga Community Library  
Tuesday, May 27, 7 pm

**Speaker: Dr. Seth Shostak from SETI  
(Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute of Mt. View, CA**

Dr. Seth Shostak has an undergraduate degree in physics from Princeton University and a doctorate in astronomy from the California Institute of Technology. For much of his career, Seth conducted radio astronomy research on galaxies and has published approximately sixty papers in professional journals. He lectures on astronomy and other subjects at Stanford and other venues in the Bay Area. For the last six years has been a Distinguished Speaker for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He is also chair of the International Academy of Astronautics SETI Permanent Study Group. Every week he hosts the SETI Institutes Science radio show, "Are We Alone?" broadcast on Discovery Channel Radio. Seth is a vibrant and amusing speaker and really keeps you on your toes on a topic of interest to all of us. The SETI Institute is using massive radio telescopes in an attempt to eavesdrop on alien broadcasts. What are the chances that they will succeed and what would be the impact on earthly society if they do? What would the aliens be like?



## Message From the President

This month I want to talk about five areas with which our branch has been involved for many years.

1. The Committee for Homeless Women and Children has been in existence for 20 years. The English Tea that they sponsored at West Valley College last month was a wonderful fundraising event. When Sumi Tanabe and Nancy Anderson had committee members tell us about their activities and accomplishments over the past years it was quite remarkable. A special "thank you" to all of them.

2. Tech Trek. We have been involved in this project for ten years. Nancy Hobbs, Linda Hagelin, and in the past, Kay Eshleman, have made this their primary interest. How do you thank them? Probably by seeing and hearing the young girls telling us how this project has made a difference in their academic lives. This project goes on throughout all the AAUW branches in California. A truly worthwhile endeavor.

3. Great Decisions. Our International Chairs, Rosalie Price and Ann Stewart, expanded this discussion group to include the Saratoga Senior Center, the Saratoga Retirement Community, and the League of Women Voters. If anyone is interested in this program, just buy the book and sign up for a specific time and place. Fred, my husband, and I chose the sessions at the Saratoga Retirement Center chaired by Rosalie. We really did not know any of the participants. What a wonderful experience it was for

us. There were an equal number of men and women, well educated and prepared to discuss each topic. We made many new friends for AAUW and ourselves. Thank you Ann and Rosalie.

4. The Fundraiser for Local Scholarships for Women in Science and Mathematics. Did you notice that Louise Quenon became our Education Foundation VP this year and that Virginia Turner chaired the Local Scholarship Committee, with Sumi Tanabe and our very capable Grapevine Editor, Donette Dake? The fundraiser was held at Hakone Gardens during the week that the rains came. However, the sun did come out that afternoon but what surprised me was the number of men who supported this event. Was it because we had Dr. Phil Hartley, President of West Valley College as the speaker or the location? Who knows? It was a delightful event. Thank you Virginia, Sumi and Donette.

5. Our Education Foundation Project. The Authors' Luncheon for the Education Foundation was quite a success. The Committee did a wonderful job in selecting the authors, making arrangements at the La Rinconada Country Club, and helped sell the authors' books. It was a lovely event.

Next month will be my last President's Message to the Branch. Frankly, it will be about our wonderful Board members who have made this year a pleasure to have served as your President.

Gladys Armstrong

## Elected Officers 2008-2009

The nominating committee proposes the following slate of officers for 2008-2009. The slate was voted upon at the general meeting, the EF luncheon on April 19.

*President Elect* Lavonne Marafino  
*Program VP* Audrey Lynch  
*Membership co-Vice Presidents*  
 Lydia Norcia, Barbara Oggerino  
*Ed Foundation VP* Louise Quenon  
*Legal Advocacy VP* Betty Maminski  
*Financial VP* Joan Kjemtrup  
*Secretary* Judy Rossman

## Appointed Officers for 2008-2009

*Directory Advertising*  
 Helen Lemmon and Penny Sink  
*Directory Editor* Frank Lemmon  
*Grapevine Editor* Donette Dake  
 Sarah Model  
*Database Manager* Barbara Lea  
*Calendar Editor*  
 Mary Ellen Madden  
*General Meeting Greeters*  
 Patty Webber  
*Tech Trek Chairs* Nancy Hobbs  
 Linda Hagelin  
*Great Decisions* Rosalie Price  
 Anne Stewart  
*Publicity* Denny Alf  
*New Member Orientation* Open  
*Public Policy* Gladys Bernyk  
*Photographer* Linda King  
*West Valley Rep* Linda King  
*By-Laws* Marge Bunyard  
*Parliamentarian*  
 Sharon Kelkenburg  
*Choices Chair* Becky Winchell  
*Historian* Jean Wenbery  
*Nominating Committee* Open  
*Interest Group Coordinator*  
 Sarah Model  
*Refreshments* Judy Zaccone  
*Sunshine* Open

## BRANCH INFORMATION

### Local Scholarships Awarded

The Local Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that we have awarded scholarships of \$900 each to Hoa Nguyen and Saba Heidari. **Hoa Nguyen** plans to study aerospace engineering at San Jose State University starting in the fall of 2008. She finds math fascinating; she has participated in math contests for students in two-year colleges and in four-year colleges, and is a straight-A student at West Valley College. One of her physics instructors called her “one of the most diligent, hard-working students” he had ever encountered, earning the highest grade he has ever given in his course. She is a member of the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society.

Hoa comes from Vietnam where she recalls that there were no books, no libraries, no inspiration, nor encouragement of any sort. Her family placed less value on her education than on their sons’ education, and she is determined to prove that women can do things just as well as men can. She moved to the United States after high school and started taking classes at community colleges where she received encouragement from several math and science instructors to pursue her educational goals. She has a young daughter and serves as a volunteer at Blossom Hill Elementary School in Los Gatos.

**Saba Heidari** plans to study electrical engineering at UCLA or UC Berkeley starting in the fall of 2008. When she was in high school she became fascinated by the connection between computer languages and solving the problems of our everyday lives and realized

that electrical engineering and computer science would be a great way to satisfy her passion for mathematics and her desire to work creatively. One of her math instructors said that she is “one of the brightest, warmest, and most inquisitive students” she has taught. She maintains a 3.87 grade point average.

Saba moved to the United States by herself at the age of 19, only three years ago, and had to learn a new language, provide her own finances, and overcome the culture shock of a new country. She serves as a volunteer for NASA as a math teacher in the Ames Exploration Encounter for students in the 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and as a math and physics tutor at West Valley College.

Congratulations to both of these wonderful students. We wish them continued success in their academic pursuits.

Virginia Turner, Chair  
Local Scholarship Committee

### Being On Your Own

At our March meeting, graciously hosted by Sue Boyd at her hilltop home, Sarah Model conducted a very informative and fascinating discussion of managing our finances, focusing particularly on investments and insurance coverage in the somewhat disturbing present economic situation.

Sarah has a lengthy background in finance and began the discussion urging us to review our insurance liability coverage, not only for adequate amounts, but also to make sure the companies themselves are sound. She referred us to a web site, [www.weissratings.com](http://www.weissratings.com), to accomplish this. She also advised us to check the soundness of our

banks and credit unions. This may be done by calling Verbinac at 1-800-442-2657. For a ten-dollar fee for each bank or credit union, they will give you a safety rating.

Sarah enlightened us as to the trillions of dollars spent so far in attempting to stabilize the economies of the U.S. and Europe. We discussed strategies to protect ourselves during rough economic times.

Our entire chapter of AAUW would find Sarah’s information extremely valuable, and perhaps Sarah would be willing to make a presentation in the future.

Our next meeting will be held at Sarah’s home, and the topic is “Connecting Socially.” We hope to see you there.

Judy Gilchrist

### Being on Your Own – May Meeting

The topic for our May meeting will be how to simplify shopping, as well as cooking and eating for one nutritiously. We will meet at *Just Dinners*, Sarah Center, Suite F, 540 N. Santa Cruz Avenue in Los Gatos on Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm.

We will get acquainted with a very easy way to provide delicious nutritious entrees without shopping and with a minimum of cooking. Attendance is limited and reservations are needed.

To make a reservation and select your menu, please call Joan Kjemtrup at 356-6016 or Barbara Hawkes at 395-4397. There will be a small fee for each of the two entrees that you make.

Please call Joan or me if you have any questions.

Barbara Hawkes

## Committee on Homeless Women and Children

At its April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Homeless Committee welcomed two guests: Cindy Maestri and Rachel Paul.

The guest speaker at the meeting was Vanessa Cooper from Affordable Housing. She gave a handout on the Blue Ribbon Commission to end homelessness and solve the affordable housing crisis. The Blue Ribbon Commission is a public-private partnership formed a year ago in response to the reality that despite significant resources, many services and high housing production, our community was not on track to end homelessness or solve the affordable housing crisis. The Commission determined that our community lacked the political will, momentum, and a structure to connect the dots and combine existing resources, services, and housing production in a more effective way.

The Commission created a vision, a solid set of goals, and a clear implementation strategy to end homelessness and solve the housing crisis while creating the passion, commitment, and sense of urgency that we need.

The Vision: Everyone has the home they need when they need it.  
The Goals:

1. End homelessness through: a one-stop homelessness prevention center, a medical respite facility, and a shift to housing first: provide permanent housing with services.
2. Solve the affordable housing crisis through: a finance initiative that develops new and increases existing funding sources with priorities to ensure the production of a diversity of housing types and a land use initiative with policies that

allow for increased housing production while remaining sensitive to local jurisdiction policy priorities.

The Campaign:

1. Build a regional governance structure to execute the Commission's vision and goals.
2. Develop a communication plan for this communitywide campaign.
3. Raise the resources necessary to achieve these critical goals.

Vanessa gave examples of various sites that the Charities Housing Development Corporation has currently: San Jose, Mt. View, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, Los Gatos, and Campbell. They range from single units, family units, developmentally disabled and seniors.

*English Tea and Silent Auction held on March 8, 2008* – Treasurer Melva Vollersen reported that this year's Tea and Auction raised \$3,500 more than last year. We are extremely grateful for the support given by Branch members, families and friends. There were 158 tickets sold. The Auction, flowers, jewelry sales and the Georgia Travis Sewing Class raised over \$5,000. As a result, we are able to give more financial help to the Family Supportive Housing, Georgia Travis Center and the Villa, and Catholic Charities. Thank you for your participation and donations.

At the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, discussion was held as to whether or not the Homeless Committee will continue the English Tea next year. The support we received from volunteers this year was extremely helpful. We are happy to announce that we will have the English Tea and Silent Auction in 2009 if the West Valley College Campus Center is available and if Mission College Hospitality Management Caterer can cater the Tea.

Georgia Travis Center Lunch Program – The Homeless Committee members have been preparing and serving lunches at the GTC on the third Tuesday of the month. The following members have volunteered for April 15<sup>th</sup> Nancy Anderson, Judy Zaccone and Pat Khan. For May 20<sup>th</sup>: JoAn Lambert, Sumi Tanabe and Suzahna Palmer. The clients at the GTC always enjoy the hot meals, fresh vegetables and fruits...a big change from their every-day soup and sandwiches.

Sumi Tanabe, Chair Committee on Homeless Women and Children

## Book Award

As mentioned in Sal Pazarro's column in the *San Jose Mercury News*, our member Audry L. Lynch, has won an award from the National League of Pen Women for her manuscript, "Two Rebels With a Cause: John Steinbeck and James Dean".

She placed second in the non-fiction competition, a category she won in 1994 with her book, "Steinbeck Remembered". Congratulations, Audry!

## Historic Walking Tour, Healdsburg

Six vintage homes and gardens within walking distance of the downtown plaza will showcase distinctive architectural styles. Guests check in at the Healdsburg Museum, 221 Matheson at Fitch Street from 1:00-4:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of the tour. Tickets available online at [www.healdsburgaauw.com](http://www.healdsburgaauw.com). Proceeds help fund individual scholarships and the Healdsburg area public schools.

## AAUW EF Named Gift Honorees for 2008

At the EF Potluck luncheon on Saturday, April 19, two outstanding women were honored as Named Gift Honorees for 2008. They are Linda King and Sumi Tanabe.

### Linda King

Linda is from West Los Angeles. She grew up in the shadow of Hollywood and has done baby-sitting for some famous movie stars, Charles Bronson among them. She has even done some actor training under the direction of Lee Strausberg.

Linda did her undergraduate work at UCLA in Anthropology and received her Master's Degree from UC Davis. She returned to UCLA and obtained her Anthropology Ph.D. in 1980-1982, while simultaneously continuing her teaching at West Valley College, where she served as president of the Academic Senate. Her area of specialty was the Chumash Indians, and she did a major dig and documentation of one of their burial sites. She has been on expeditions to the remote Easter Island on three occasions, having led one digging in caves in 1984.

Linda has been the "official" photographer and secretary for our AAUW branch. She has also been very active in the League of Women Voters of Southwest Santa Clara Valley—even figuring out how to deal with the National Office and keep their database straight. For recreation she enjoys opera, singing and playing the piano. Biography by Barbara Lea

### Sumi Tanabe

This Named Honoree is not a long-time member of AAUW, but a very productive one. She is known for her capacity to carry on the responsibilities of not one elected position, but two or more at a time. This she does while being on the

board of several other civic organizations, and a faithful church-goer, where she assumes even more responsibilities.

She has been as active in retirement, as she was in her work life, being a founding member of a staff who brought West Valley College into being? As well as teaching at the college level, she became instrumental to the new college as one of the most important (and busy) administration members. All of this requires organization, organization, and organization. She has this in abundance!

Who would know this more than her family? Her daughters know her loyalty, and her willingness to give until it hurts. She will fly across the country in a flash, when she knows that she is needed. She does this even without thinking, because she knows that it is needed. And so, she does it.

This busy, busy person is Co-Vice President of the Legal Advocacy Fund and the Chair of the Homeless Women and Children's Committee. Unfortunately she is SO busy that she was not able to be present to receive her award. She is busy helping her daughter who is celebrating her marriage.

Biography by Patty Weber

## AAUW California 2008 Convention, Rohnert Park.

We had four delegates at the convention: Joan Kjemtrup, Audry Lynch, Sharon Kelkenberg, and Jan Leyse from Idaho. The main order of business was voting for 16 interim directors, since the By-Laws will change after July 1.

The theme was "It's all about the Mission", namely "AAUW Advances Equity for Women and Girls through Advocacy, Education and Research". It is our response when people ask, "What is AAUW?"

I was interested in the 2008 Public Policy Legislative Positions and how we can let our opinions be

known. One bill that stirred interest was "SB1712 (Migden) Adulterated Cosmetics." This bill would permit marketing of only lead free lipstick in California. Manufacturers would be required to reformulate their lipsticks.

To follow progress of this bill, log onto [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov). To find out how other bills fit into the AAUW CA public policy priorities or the Association public policy principles go to [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org) or [www.aaug.org](http://www.aaug.org).

We also heard Beth McGovern, legislative director for the California Commission on the Status of Women. As an aside, I remember when the Commission on the Status of Women was formed and that was one of the reasons I joined AAUW.

The four speakers she introduced represented four organizations with which AAUW partners and collaborates: the Women's Bureau, US Dept of Labor, AARP, California National Organization for Women (CA NOW), and the National Women's Political Caucus which endorses candidates. (AAUW only endorses issues.)

Paul Thein, former vice president of student services, Athletic Director and Dean of Students at Feather River Community College, made a very moving presentation. He had voiced concern in 2005 that the athletic department was not in Title IX compliance. Both he and the women's basketball coach were fired. The case is still on-going. Paul has not been hired by any other college and now lives in another state and is barely able to make ends meet. His attorney, Michael Terhost, also spoke on the matter. I began to understand the function of AAUW's legal advocacy fund which has supported his case.

If you want to know more about the convention, please contact Audry Lynch, Sharon Kelkenberg, or me.

Joan Kjemtrup

## A Fair and Balanced Judiciary

The American Association of University Women “supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals, including the right to privacy.” Civil and constitutional rights and individual liberties are protected by the judiciary; therefore, AAUW’s 2007-2009 Policy Program actively supports “a fair and balanced and independent judiciary.”

AAUW monitors the judicial nominations process because so many of our fundamental rights and liberties have been established and are protected by the federal courts. The confirmation of extremist, activist judges to the federal bench undermines a fair and balanced judiciary and could turn back the clock on decades of progress for women and girls.

In the United States, people deserve federal judges who are committed to upholding the hard-fought constitutional rights secured through Supreme Court precedents. Individual nominees whose views and records are outside the mainstream of legal thought should not be nominated nor confirmed to the courts. AAUW believes the federal judiciary, and through them the country as a whole, would be best served by the nomination and confirmation of moderate judges.

The final year of a presidency, such as 2008, brings an additional consideration. According to an informal understanding known as the Thurmond Rule, only consensus nominees will be voted on during a presidential election year; no controversial nominees will be brought forth at this time. This precedent is reportedly traced to the 1980s, when Senator Strom

Thurmond chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee, though controversy exists over how long this practice has been in place, how closely it has been adhered to, and when during an election year it should take effect.

### Conclusion

As federal judicial nominations proceed, AAUW will continue to monitor the process and oppose those nominees who are not committed to the protection of fundamental civil rights and liberties for which our members have fought for over a century.

For more information, please call 202-785-7793 or e-mail [VoterEd@aauw.org](mailto:VoterEd@aauw.org).

**Because equity is still an issue.**



## Social Security Report Released

The Board of Trustees of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds recently released their 2008 annual report on the current and projected financial status of the two programs, and the National Academy of Social Insurance recently released a new brief on the report. *Social Security Finances: Findings of the 2008 Trustees Report* shows that 50 million people—about one in every six U.S. residents—received Social Security benefits in Jan. 2008, and Social Security reserves are projected to be depleted by 2041. After that time, tax income coming into the trust fund will cover about 78 percent of benefits due. The brief also answers many common questions about Social Security, including how actuaries project the future, what the trustees’ project for the near term and for the next 75 years, and how the 2008 estimated projections compare to past reports.

The current Social Security system is more than just a retirement program; across the lifespan, it is one of the most successful anti-poverty programs in our nation’s history, providing benefits to many children, disabled workers, surviving spouses, and retirees. Older women also benefit greatly from this program, since many depend on Social Security as their primary source of retirement income. AAUW is firmly against privatizing all or part of the current Social Security program, since that would eliminate many of the guaranteed benefits women need and jeopardize important benefits to children, especially women and children of color. Social Security’s long-term solvency needs to be strengthened, not weakened through privatization. For more information, please read AAUW’s position papers on Social Security privatization and women and Social Security.

Gladys Bernyk

## May 2008 AAUW Calendar

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

- 2 Friday** **Travel, 7:30 pm** at The Terraces of Los Gatos in the Main Hall. “Patagonian Adventure.” Travel with Adventure Tour Guide Eric Thomson to the southernmost city in Chilei, Punta Arenas and from there see the colony of 10,000 penguins on the way to Puerto Natales. Cruise up a stunning fiord, and then go on up the Rio Serranos by zodiac. Hike in national parks on glaciers, by lakes and waterfalls, and enjoy the breathtaking views. See the lakes of the vast Patagonian Steppe. See the show!! Chair: JoAn Lambert, 867-6237. Co-chairs: Pat Khan, 741-1616 and Carol McFarlin, 867-2557.
- 5 Monday** **Board Meeting 4-6 pm** at the Saratoga Fire Station, corner of Saratoga Ave& Saratoga/Los Gatos Road.
- 8 Thursday** **Hikes and Walks, meet promptly at 9:00 am** *Los Gatos Park and Ride*. UVAS Canyon Park. Up the canyon past some falls and up through the oak forest to the left – hopefully some late wild flowers along the creek Questions? Call Kay Duffy 867-0508 or Jane Bishop 356-7796.
- 13 Tuesday** **Conversation in Spanish 1:30-2:30 pm** 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.
- 13 Tuesday** **Committee for Homeless Women and Children, 7:00-9:00 pm** at the home of Nancy Anderson, 13561 Lomond Ct., Saratoga. For information call Sumi Tanabe, 253-6191.
- 14 Wednesday** **Let’s Do Lunch, 11:30 am** at Jasmine, 20 S. Santa Cruz—wonderful Chinese Cuisine. Entrance is on MAIN STREET. Hostess: Pat O’Hare at 354-6790. Chair: Jean Power at 356-5122. Visitors and guests are welcome.
- 15 Thursday** **Great Decisions (Group 1) 1-3 pm** at the Saratoga Area Senior Coordinating Center. For information call: Anne or Al Stewart at 358-3177.
- 16 Friday** **AM Book Review 9:30 am** at the home of Shirley Newsom, 115 Via Santa Maria, Los Gatos. RSVP: 356-7256. Information: Margo Restruck, 741-5087, margrest@earthlink.net or Barbara Oggerino, 354-5394, oggerinobarb@aol.com.
- 17 Saturday** **Gourmet Supper Club, Mother’s Day Brunch**. For information, call Carolyn Laub, 354-1415.
- 20 Tuesday** **PM Book Review, 7:30 pm** at The Terraces, Margaret Ford, 356-5028 Book: “Snow Flower and Secret Fan” by Lisa See. Reviewer: Jean Wenberg. Co- chairs: Pat Khan 741-1616 and Marlene Lamb 356-8441.
- 21 Wednesday** **Being on Your Own, 1 pm** at Just Dinners, Sarah Center, Suite F, 540 N. Santa Cruz, Los Gatos. Call Joan Kjemtrup, 356-6016 or Barbara Hawkes, 395-4397 for reservations. (See writeup for more details).
- 22 Thursday** **Back By Noon Hike, meet promptly at 9:00 am** at Argonaut Center, Saratoga by Longs.
- 27 Tuesday** **General Meeting, 7 pm** at The Saratoga Library. Speaker: Dr. Seth Shostak, Sr. Astronomer at the SETT Institute. See front page for details.
- 27 Tuesday** **Conversation in Spanish 1:30-2:30 pm** 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.
- 27 Tuesday** **Film Buffs, (NEW TIME) 1:00 to 3:00 pm**, at the home of Mycke Moore, 16724 Chirco Dr, Los Gatos. RSVP to Mycke at 358-1206. Chair: Mary Ellen Madden, 264-4488.
- 29 Thursday** **Trail Clean-Up, Meet promptly at 9:00 am** at the *Los Gatos Park and Ride*.

**Branch Newsletter and update information online at <http://aauw-lgs.org>**

### **Profiles of New Members**

Please welcome the following new members to our Branch of AAUW:

In addition to Suzahna Palmer, who was acknowledged in September, as well as Michelle Annette and Amy Meier, who were acknowledged in February,

I am happy to report that the following new members have joined our Branch: Jo Anne Harriman, 354-1978, Malkah W. Carothers, 252-2584; Janice Berthold, 255-1910; Caittin Williams, 871-9294; Clair B. Baker, 867-2295;

Phyllis Vogel, 253-9355; and Pauline A. Berkowitz, 741-7635. Carol Lange, Barbara Lea, and Sharon Smith joined during 2007 after a time when they could be listed in our current Directory.

Sue Boyd

Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch  
American Association of University Women  
14014 Pierce Road  
Saratoga, CA 95070



# *May 2008*

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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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