



# Grapevine

Los Gatos/Saratoga Branch

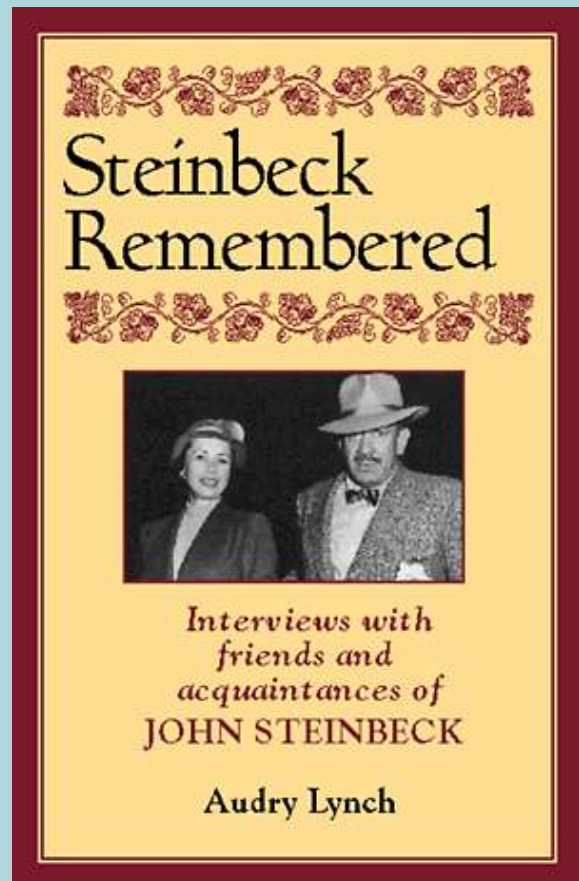
American Association of University Women

May 2009

## Hear Noted Author and Steinbeck Expert Dr. Audry Lynch “John Steinbeck’s Local Connections”



**Thursday, May 14  
7 to 9:30 pm  
Saratoga Library**



## Message From the President

I attended a meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> go get an update from two women with California's Housing and Community Development Department. The funding from Proposition 1A, and also the previous Proposition 46, will be running out in 2009-2010. At this time, a permanent source of funding for affordable housing is being developed. There have been, so far, eleven state-wide meetings to hear input on what that permanent source should be.

Some conclusions have been drawn:

- There needs to be multiple sources of funds for greater stability during a variety of economic conditions.
- Existing successful and streamlined state and local program delivery systems should be used to avoid creation of a costly new bureaucracy that would slow housing production.
- Both the state and local governments should administer funding.

Research has shown that California needs about 220,000 new housing units per year for a predictable growth of 500,000 people. According to HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development), about 52,000 of those households are lower income, paying more than 30% of their income for housing.

What is even worse is that 28,600 of those 220,000 are extremely low income and need to pay more than 50% of their income for housing.

Consequently, there is a need for a permanent source of funds to create affordable housing. Some types of workers who often cannot qualify to purchase a home in California are: nurses, firefighters, teachers, cashiers, and police officers.

The "Housing Wage" (wage necessary to pay rent) in California is \$22.86/hour, more than three times the minimum wage.

An extremely low-income household can only afford monthly rent of up to \$496, while the fair market rent for a two bedroom unit is \$1,189. (These numbers are from a 2006 source and are an average for the state). Santa Clara County tends to be even more expensive. A worker earning minimum wage must work 135 hours per week in order to afford the average two-bedroom unit in Santa Clara County.

There is a bill in the California legislature, SB 500 (Steinberg), to address this housing issue, but it is still a work in progress. I am looking forward to watching the progress, since the need is great. If you would like to learn more, there is a lot of information at the following web site:

[http://www.hcd.ca.gov/permsource/CA\\_Housing\\_Issues.pdf](http://www.hcd.ca.gov/permsource/CA_Housing_Issues.pdf)

Margaret Bard

## About the May Speech and Speaker

Dr. Lynch's PowerPoint presentation will focus on Steinbeck's connections to our area: marrying a San Jose woman, living in Los Gatos where he wrote two of his most famous novels, and interviews with Saratoga and Los Gatos residents who knew him during his California years.

She will show pictures of Steinbeck Country, Steinbeck family pictures and stills from his movies. During her program she encourages questions and comments from the audience who undoubtedly have a broad knowledge of his life and works. There will be a question and answer period at the end and a book signing of her book Steinbeck Remembered. She says that, "Maybe the biggest current question is, 'Are we in the middle of a replay of the Grapes of Wrath right now?'"

Dr. Lynch discovered John Steinbeck and devoured all of his books one summer during her college years. She has written two books about Steinbeck, has given many presentations on his life, and presented papers at Steinbeck conferences.

Be sure to come and enjoy the presentation and learn about this



## Branch Information

### Committee on Homeless Women and Children

The following information is taken directly from the website of the National Coalition for the Homeless [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org). It is interesting to see how renters have caught the attention of our policy makers.

#### *Bringing America Home*

As an emergency measure, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 created a \$1.5 billion Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) to help families who are either homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless to pay rent, make security deposits, pay utility bills, and cover other housing expenses. It also provides funds to help these families receive appropriate services.

Mortgage foreclosures are becoming ever more frequent across the United States.

- Low-income and extremely low-income households are the most heavily impacted by mortgage foreclosures.

- In December 2008, an annual survey from the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 12 major cities reported an increase in homelessness as a result of foreclosure, with renters of foreclosed properties being the victims most vulnerable to homelessness.

- While data are incomplete, CBS News reported on March 27, 2008 that based on Realty-Trac data, "38 percent of foreclosures now involve rental properties," affecting "at least 168,000 households nationwide." In some areas as many as half the foreclosed units are occupied by tenants.

- Renters often have no idea their home is about to be foreclosed. Depending on state law, renters in foreclosed properties may be evicted with limited notice, forcing families to move quickly and increasing the number of vacant properties in neighborhoods.

Many households are finding that the economic recession and rise in food and gas prices have caused their income to be diverted more and more to basic needs, preventing them from establishing reserves for emergency situations, such as a sudden loss of housing.

Congress is proposing extraordinary measures to refinance troubled borrowers and provide resources to state and local communities to tackle abandoned and foreclosed properties. These efforts are important and needed. However, alone they are insufficient to protect families and neighborhoods because they do not address the needs of renters in properties subject to foreclosure or to put in place robust homelessness prevention provisions.

We thank our out-going board for their hard work this year and most especially a hearty thanks to Sumi Tanabe for leading us these last years. May will be our last official meeting until after summer - our June meeting is a potluck lunch at Nancy Anderson's. Any member of AAUW that would like to come to the lunch or would like information about our committee please contact Nancy at [Dander2567@aol.com](mailto:Dander2567@aol.com) or 867-4383.

### Independent Women

After a very successful year – we now have approximately fifteen to sixteen attendees at each meeting – we will meet to celebrate at the Florentine Restaurant in Saratoga (See Calendar).

Please bring any ideas you have for future meetings to the lunch so we can plan our program for next year.

Sarah Model

### Enjoy Spring's Flowers

April showers bring forth May flowers—mid-16th century proverb. *From "Oxford Dictionary of Quotations," Fifth Edition*

The flowers that bloom in the spring,  
Tra la,  
Breathe promise of merry sunshine

—  
As we merrily dance and we sing,  
Tra la,  
We welcome the hope that they bring,  
Tra la

*From Gilbert and Sullivan's The Mikado*



*Taken in Costa Rica*

## Meet Our Scholarship Recipients

We are pleased to announce that we have two wonderful recipients for our Local Scholarships; each will receive a \$1,000 scholarship as she transfers from West Valley College to a four-year college or university.

**Jill Slyter** grew up in Silicon Valley and was fascinated by the way things work. In the mid-1970's her entire family participated in building their own 24-inch television set which worked until well into the 1990's. She followed the NASA space program avidly and delighted in the space shuttle program with the vehicles flying into space and returning to earth to be flown into space again.

Jill has a great aptitude for analytical thinking and finds that discovering the solution to math problems is its own reward. One of her recommendations noted that she is the best student in the class in his ten years of teaching mathematics at West Valley College.

Jill is returning to school after a break of 20+ years; she has worked at a variety of jobs, while aspiring to become a musical theater performer. She plans to transfer to San Jose State University in January of 2010 to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering. She hopes that a degree in Mechanical Engineering will make the world – and beyond – a better place.

**Bin Tu** came from China about three and a half years ago. She has always been interested in science and loved being able to determine the species of trees by their leaves and to follow chemical reactions. In high school she developed an interest in biology, especially DNA and genetics and she has chosen biochemistry as her major. She is a member of AGS honor club and works as a teacher's assistant in

chemistry and as a tutor for biology, chemistry, math and physics.

Bin is the type of student that most instructors wish for, says one of her recommendations. She loves to learn and possesses a thirst for knowledge that you do not find in many students. She is an exceptional student and always thoroughly prepared.

Bin has been accepted to UC Davis for the fall of 2009. She is thinking about becoming a veterinarian because she loves animals.

Congratulations to Jill and Bin!

Virginia Turner, Chair  
Local Scholarship Committee

## AAUW-LAF

Do not toss out your copy of *OUTLOOK* (the AAUW magazine for the Spring Summer of 2009), but read the Lilly Ledbetter story which led to the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act*. Thanks to the hard work of AAUW-LAF and our coalition partners, the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act* was signed by President Obama in January, 2009. Thank you to all of you who made donations to AAUW-LAF. We still have work to do. Women who work full time earn 78 cents for every dollar men earn. Also, thank you to all who made extra donations to LAF.

Betty Maminski, LAF

P.S. If you have not yet made a donation, just write a check to AAUW-LAF and send it to:

Ms. Betty Maminski  
576 West Parr Ave #12  
Los Gatos, CA 95032

## Spring Luncheon

For those who attended our last general meeting and may be interested in supporting "The Friends Outside," here is the information on their spring luncheon.

Friends Outside Spring Luncheon  
Thursday, May 7, 11:45 am to 1 pm, David's Restaurant, Santa Clara

Tickets cost \$15. For more information, contact Kate at 408-295-6033, Ex.102.

Audry Lynch

## Pro-Choice Update

*Emergency Contraception:* On March 23, 2009, the U.S. District Court ordered the FDA to expand access to emergency contraception (EC) by making it available over-the-counter to 17-year-old women. Presently over-the-counter access is available only to women 18 years and above. Additionally, the Court ordered the FDA to explore allowing minors under the age of 17 to have similar access to EC. The Court strongly criticized the FDA saying that it was infected by "political considerations, delays, and implausible justifications for decision making" and by "pressure emanating from the White House."

*Health and Human Services Regulations:* President Bush, in the last days of his administration, finalized a regulation that would significantly limit a person's access to both health care and information about health care options. Among other things, these regulations would allow doctors, health care workers, and even health insurance companies to deny providing health care based on their "morals." Guess who that would affect! On March 6, 2009, President Obama moved to rescind these regulations. HHS has proposed a rule to repeal these Bush administration regulations. The public has 30 days to comment; right now the regulations remain in effect. Go to [www.prochoicepower.org/get-involved](http://www.prochoicepower.org/get-involved) to voice your opinion.

Joyce Sogg

## Public Policy

Last week, Reps. John Conyers (D-MI) and Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) introduced the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009 (H.R. 1913), and the House is expected to vote on it at the end of April. This critical piece of legislation will provide much-needed protections and tools to combat-and help eliminate-hate and bias crimes. Help protect women who are not currently protected under the justice system by urging your representative to cosponsor and support this important legislation.

Current law only allows federal involvement in the prosecution of non-federal hate crimes when the victim was targeted because of race, color, religion, or national origin. This legislation would fill a gap in the law by also allowing the Department of Justice to take on cases motivated by the victim's actual or perceived gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.

While progress has been made in responding to crimes such as domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault, more can be done. The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act is necessary to ensure an appropriate response when local law authorities cannot or will not give gender-based hate crime victims the protection they deserve. By strengthening protections against bias-motivated crimes and removing some restrictions on when the federal government can assist local authorities in the prosecution of such hate crimes, fewer of these disturbing cases will slip through the cracks.

The bill passed both the House and Senate during the 110th Congress, but a presidential veto threat

kept it from being enacted. AAUW Action Network and our Capitol Hill Lobby Corps members have supported this bill in the past, and we ask you to join AAUW again now in sending a clear signal that hate-motivated violence carried out against any individual will not be tolerated.

Greg Mortenson, humanitarian, AAUW member and co-author of *Three Cups of Tea* has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. He is co founder and executive director of the Central Asia Institute and founder of Pennies for Peace. Mr. Mortenson spoke at the 2007 AAUW

Convention. Representative Mary Bono Mack (R-CA) and several other members of Congress nominated Mortenson in recognition of his work to educate children, especially girls, in some of the most remote and dangerous areas of Pakistan. As of 2008, Mortenson had established 78 schools, which serve more than 28,000 children, including 18,000 girls. Mr. Mortenson personifies the goals and policies of AAUW and understands the tremendous positive, peaceful impacts that educated girls and women have on societies around the world.

The government of Pakistan awarded him their highest civil award, the Star of Pakistan in March 2009.

Gladys Bernyk

## Expanding Your Horizons 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference

The Expanding Your Horizons 31<sup>st</sup> annual conference took place on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at SJSU. Local branches of AAUW showed their support by volunteering in many ways. This year approximately 400 young women from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grades attended the conference. The goal of the conference is to emphasize the importance of taking mathematics and science courses in secondary school and to foster awareness of career opportunities of women in mathematics and science-related fields. Approximately sixty women who have careers in math, science, or engineering led twenty-six hands-on workshops. The workshops spanned a variety of topics from medicine to mathematics to engineering.

Los Gatos/Saratoga branch members, Barbara Shandera and Mary Ellen Madden, hosted a reception at the end of the day for the presenters of the workshops. It gave the presenters a chance to do some informal evaluating and chatting while they enjoyed some light refreshments. They always appreciate our providing this small token of our appreciation for their work. It was a treat to meet these women and hear their enthusiasm for exposing the girls to the world of math and science.

Mary Ellen Madden



*Photo taken in Greece*



Flower Market in Switzerland

## AAUW Research Studies Available in Local Branch

Our branch has copies of several studies that the AAUW Education Foundation has conducted and printed over recent years. They are available for you to borrow. They could also be used by others you know, such as your children and grandchildren who may be writing reports for school, or other projects.

They will be on display at our May and September Branch meetings. They can be signed out there or at any time through our Branch Historian Jean Wenberg. These and others are also available online on the AAUW website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

- Behind the Pay Gap 2007
  - Historic Principles: Issues addressed by AAUW 1881-2007 2007
  - Financial Independence for Girls: Teaching it in Your Community 2007
  - Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus 2005
  - Gender Gaps: Where Schools Still Fail Our Children 2005
  - Under the Microscope: A Decade of Gender Equity Projects in the Sciences 2004
  - Beyond the "Gender Wars:" A Conversation about Girls, Boys, and Education 2001
  - The Third Shift: Women Learning Online 2000
  - Sister to Sister: A Planning Guide For and About Girls 1999
  - Girls Can! Community Coalitions Resource Manual 1996
  - Growing Smart: What's Working for Girls in School 1995
- Submitted By: Sharon Kelkenberg

## Ballot Pros and Cons May 6 History Club Fund Raiser

**VOTERS!** Six state ballot measures will be up for a vote at the Special Election on Tuesday, May 19th. They all propose how our California state taxes should be spent.

AAUW and the League of Women Voters are giving a Pro/Con explanation of the measures on Wednesday, May 6th at the Saratoga Senior Center, large room, at 7:00 pm (Please enter from the parking lot side entrance). Speakers will be Terry Zaccone, Patty Weber, Maraquita West, and Marjory Bunyard.

The History Club has given AAUW tremendous support for our Tech Trek program (see the April Grapevine), and we would like to make the members aware of another one of their fundraisers. You are encouraged to support them as they have supported us.

The History Club of Los Gatos' fund raiser to help the Youth Science Institute, *The World of Tastes*, will be on Wednesday, May 13 at 11:00 am at the History Club in Los Gatos. Tickets are \$20 for a lovely home-made International luncheon. Check with Terry Raynard for tickets.

Nancy Hobbs

## May 2009 AAUW Calendar

- 1 Friday** **Travel 7:30 pm** at The Terraces of Los Gatos in the Main Hall. "Ireland-Green and Beautiful" Join traveler Pat Khan as she and fellow AAUW member, Carol Fitting, journey through the southern parts of this beautiful country, visiting Dublin, Galway and many other well known and historic areas, enjoying food and the people. Visit local art festivals, and join Pat as she has the unique experience of being lowered to kiss the Blarney Stone! Chair: JoAn Lambert, 867-6237. Co-Chairs: Pat Khan, 741-1616 and Margaret McCartney, 741-0652.

## May 2009 AAUW Calendar Continued

- 5 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.
- 5 Tuesday Board Meeting, 3:30 pm**, at the Saratoga Fire Station, corner of Saratoga Ave & Saratoga/Los Gatos Road.
- 6 Wednesday AAUW and League of Women Voters Pro/Con 7 pm**, at the Saratoga Senior center, large room. (Please enter from the parking lot side entrance). Speakers will be Terry Zaccone, Patty Weber, Maraquita West, and Marjory Bunyard.
- 12 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.
- 13 Wednesday Let's Do Lunch, 11:30 am.** At Jasmine Chinese Restaurant, 205 Santa Cruz in Los Gatos. The Entrance is on Main Street. Please call Hostess Pat O'Hare, 354-6790 for reservations. Chair: Clare Baker, 867-2295. Visitors and guests are welcome.
- 14 Thursday Hikes and Walks, meet promptly at 9:00 am** in the Los Gatos Park and Ride. Guadalupe River Park and Gardens. We will take the Light Rail to downtown San Jose for a 6-mile hike along the river through San Jose. Visit the spectacular rose gardens. Bring \$1.50 (senior) for the Light Rail fare. Questions? Call Kay Duffy 867-0508 or Jane Bishop 356-7796.
- 14 Thursday General Meeting-The World of John Steinbeck, 7- 9:00 pm**, at The Saratoga Library. Check front page for details.
- 15 Friday AM Book Review at 9:30 am**, at the home Barbara Oggerino, 18280 Lakeview Ct, Los Gatos. RSVP to Barbara at 354-5394. For information: Call Margo Restrict at 741-5087, or Barbara Oggerino, 354-5394.
- 17 Sunday Gourmet Supper Club**, if interested call Gladys Bernyk at 440-1080 or Doris Agee at 992-4918.
- 19 Tuesday Special Election Day.**
- 19 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.
- 19 Tuesday PM Book Review, 7:30 pm**, at The Terraces. RSVP to Margaret Ford, 356-5028. Book: "Bridge of Sighs" by Richard Russo. Reviewer: Group Review. For information call Co-Chairs: Pat Khan, 741-1616 or Marlene Lamb, 356-8441.
- 20 Wednesday Independent Women, 1:00 pm** at Florentine Restaurant, 14510 Big Basin Way, Saratoga. Please RSVP to Sarah Model at 354-7819, Joan Kjemtrup at 356-6016, or Barbara Hawkes at 395-4397.
- 26 Tuesday Film Buffs, 1:30 to 3:00 pm**, at the home Lita Askanas, 13460 Saraview Dr, Saratoga. RSVP to Lita at 867-2543 Chair: Mary Ellen Madden, 264-4488.
- 28 Thursday Back By Noon Hike, meet promptly at 9:00 am** at Argonaut center, Saratoga by Longs

Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch  
American Association of University Women  
20462 Chalet Lane  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Periodical  
US Postage  
Paid  
Saratoga, CA  
USPS 061-770



**May 2009**

*Rose from a garden in Ireland*

Grapevine Newsletter Editor, Donette Dake (353-2342), Co-Editor, Sarah Model  
Distribution: Judy Zaccone. **Final deadline for copy is on the 10th of the month.** Copy to [dcdake@yahoo.com](mailto:dcdake@yahoo.com)  
Published monthly except July and August by Los Gatos-Saratoga Branch of the American Association of University Women.  
Periodical postage paid at Saratoga, CA 95070-9998.

## **Please change your Directory to include the following:**

### *New Member*

Mary Beth Gandrud  
13310 Carrick Street  
Saratoga, CA 95070  
408-866-7113  
gandrudg@att.net  
Barrington College, BA Social Work  
San Jose State University, BS Business/Accounting

### *Change of Address::*

Dorothy Donielson  
7448 Spring Village Drive, Apt. 524  
Springfield, VA 22150  
donielson813@aeitv.net  
703-912-4875

## **Housing Tour**

Join us for a tour of innovative housing developed along the new Winchester Light Rail Line between Campbell and the San Jose Diridon station. There has been a lot of development along the light rail that may give you some new ideas of what transit-oriented development can be. We meet in Campbell at 8:30 am Saturday morning May 16. Enjoy a continental breakfast, as well as lunch, with lots of information in between the two! Registration \$10. To register, please call Margaret Bard 408-377-6625 or go to [www.svlg.net](http://www.svlg.net).

## **Save the Date**

The annual Games Party to benefit Tech Trek will take place on Wednesday, July 8, 2009 at The Terraces of Los Gatos. Details will be in the June *Grapevine* or contact Louise Quenon at 867- 0698.