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President's Message by Sandra Campbell

The holidays have arrived! Catalogs clog mailboxes and sales are proliferating in stores and online. It is easy to get caught up in the flurry and the need to meet expectations set by ourselves and others. Take some deep breaths and try to concentrate on the non-commercial aspects of the season, such as upcoming gatherings with family and friends.

Speaking of such gatherings, this month brings our Holiday Open House, scheduled for Sunday, December 11, at Christina Weidinger's home in Jackson. Spouses, significant others and prospective members are welcome. See Page 5 for details and be sure to RSVP.

In other program news, the theme for April's Home Tour is "Tone: A View from the Castle," utilizing another watercolor design from Sarah Dougherty. If you have not already signed up to hostess, please contact Claire Wait at clairesc@sbcglobal.net to do so. This year the Home Tour Committee proposed, and the board concurred, that members working on

Home Tour day may purchase tickets at half price. Hostesses have the opportunity to view sites ahead of the tour, meet our generous homeowners, and become better acquainted with other hostesses. Working the Home Tour provides valuable support for our scholarship program.

There are programs prior to Home Tour, of course. Our first of the New Year features Lodi crime novelist Robin Burcell, speaking on "Women Sleuths." This event will be open to the public. February's program is a morning Kaffeeklatch for members and guests. **We need a lead for this event to work with our Program VP.** If you are willing to help organize this social, please contact Bev York at likacb@volcano.net. For March, Mary Thorpe and Heidi O'Hara have come up with a new way to celebrate Women's History Month. Be sure to read the newsletter each month for details on these and other upcoming programs.

I hope to see you all at the holiday party.



Editor's Note by Suzanne Nicholson

I have taken the liberty in this issue of including a few items of broader interest to our group. On page 3 you will find a copy of the AAUW Public Policy Priorities for 2011-2012 that were approved at the 2011 AAUW Convention. Given our Mission Statement, it's nice to be reminded that our State branch is actively engaged in advancing important public policy goals that affect women and girls in a wide number of areas. I encourage you to check out the AAUW California website at www.aauw-ca.org.

As many of you know, our branch for several years held a BeadforLife fundraiser in December. Although we are not hosting that event this year, the organization is still an important one that deserves our support. Take a look at the inspiring letter from BeadforLife Executive Director Devin Hibbard at page 6, taken from the BeadforLife website, and see the benefits of our fundraising efforts! Thank you Sue Harrington for passing this on.

Have a fantastic holiday!

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

DIVERSITY STATEMENT:

In principle and in 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.

Happy December Birthdays!



- Billie Armstrong
- Marylyn Copper
- Rhoda Immer
- Loretta Porteous
- Susan Staggs
- Joann Chevrette
- Elaine Galli
- Kelly Trottier
- Suzanne Nicholson

Scholarship Thank-You!

“Dear AAUW members:

I want to thank AAUW for their wonderful support and for providing me with the \$800.00 scholarship to help with my educational goals for the 2011-2012 school year. It will be extremely helpful in providing me with the financial support needed to obtain my bachelors degree.

I look forward to attending meetings as my schedule allows and wish to thank everyone for their gracious and welcoming manner.

Sincerely,

Karen O. Ostiguy”

Board Briefs for November 17, 2011

The minutes for October 20, 2011, were approved.

The Treasurer gave her report.

Sarah Hart explained how scholarship monies are on a 15-month cycle with funds from the previous year’s Home Tour paying the following year’s scholarships. Scholarship Chair Job Descriptions were approved.

Feedback on the ATCAA Forum was provided. The Forum was well attended, informative, and wonderful. A fifteen minute break in the program would have allowed needed social time and interaction with the speakers.

The Board approved expenditure for a 3’ x 18’ double-sided banner for advertising the upcoming and future Home Tours. The Board also approved a proposal by the Home Tour Committee to provide a ½ price ticket discount to members who work on the day of the Home Tour, and to continue to give free tickets to non-members who work that day.

The January program features author Robin Burcell, as speaker, with the theme of “Women Sleuths.” An optional donation for attending will be

suggested. A gift for the speaker and a color photo on the flyer were approved.

The Board will vote by email on whether or not to approve expenditure for advertising (3-6 months) with AC Home .

There is no Board meeting in December. The next Board Meeting is January 19, 2012.

Next Board Meeting January 19, 2012.



AAUW California Public Policy Priorities 2011-2013

The AAUW CA Public Policy program supports its mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research, and complements the national Public Policy program. AAUW CA's priorities for action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, and strong member support. Priorities within each category are marked with an * as determined by the membership in the Fall 2010 survey; priority order also reflects the ranking from the survey.

Equity

Recognizing that equity for all women and girls requires a basis in law, AAUW California supports:

- Legislation that addresses current inequities in compensation and benefits for all women of any age, culture, race, ethnicity, special needs or sexual orientation.*
- Respect for diversity and the rejection of all forms of discrimination.
- Vigorous enforcement of California Title V and Federal Title IX regulations on gender equity.

Education

Believing that public education and lifelong learning are the foundations of a democratic society, AAUW California supports:

- Continuing educational research and reform that improves the quality of public education.*
- Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education that supports all students of any age, culture, race, ethnicity, special needs or sexual orientation.
- Programs that provide women and girls with education, training, and support for long-term success in the work force and the community.
- Public funds are used only for public schools.
- Medically accurate health curriculum, including comprehensive sex education.

Societal Change

Promoting the social, economic and physical well-being of all individuals and families, AAUW California supports:

- The right to determine one's reproductive life, including the right to privacy and access to quality family planning services.*
- Access to affordable and quality health care.
- Freedom from violence and fear in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities.
- Constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals.
- Access to decent, affordable housing.
- Expansion and enforcement of patient rights.
- Promotion of safe, healthy communities and schools free from sexual harassment, bullying, and intimidation.
- Vigorous enforcement of anti-human trafficking laws.

AAUW CA approved these Priorities at the 2011 Convention.

Announcements

Directory Update!

We still have 2011-2012 Directories looking for a home. Hopefully, they will catch up with their wayward owners at the Holiday Party. We would like to distribute them to all members without paying postage, so if you are not attending on December 11th, please contact me so we can make arrangements.

Sandi Baracco,
Directory Editor

BaraccoArchitect@comcast.net

December Events

- Dec. 11: Holiday Open House
- Dec. 6 & 20: Art in Action
- Dec. 12 : Book Lovers & Page Turners
- Dec. 12: Afternoon Book Group
- Dec. 21: Garden Groupies

Community:

Holiday fare is being requested for the December Food Bank. Along with the turkey accompaniments of canned yams, cranberries, green beans, stuffing and potatoes.....festive items like hot chocolate, apple cider, candy, and nuts would add to the season. Donations can be dropped off at the following Jackson locations:

- ◇ Glass Doctor, 11940 Hwy 88, Jackson
- ◇ Great Finds Thrift Shop, 460 Hwy 49, Sutter Creek
- ◇ Food Bank, 12181 Airport Rd., Jackson

Your participation is appreciated. Thank you.

Marylyn Copper,
Community Representative

Friends of Amador County Library:

Award-winning Western entertainer and songwriter Dave Stamey will be this year's performer at Friends of the Amador County Library 2nd annual "Boot's 'n Books" fundraiser, Sunday, February 12, 2012, 2:00 p.m., at the American Legion Hall in Sutter Creek. Refreshments, silent auction, split the deck drawing, door prizes and no-host bar add to the fun. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door (if available) and can be purchased at Hein & Co. Bookstore, 204 Main St., Jackson, or by mail at 14000 Echo Drive, Sutter Creek, 95685.

Facebook Page Coordinator Needed!

AAUW Amador has a skeleton Facebook page in need of a coordinator who will keep it up-to-date with events, announcements, news, items of interest, etc. The page will be for members and non-members alike. If you are interested in helping us bring AAUW Amador into the social networking world and expanding our demographics, please contact our Gold Filings editor Suzanne Nicholson at sooze29@yahoo.com for further information.



The Sunshine Chair, **Lynne Brumit**, will send a note or card on behalf of AAUW to any member who needs some sunshine (for illness, condolences or simply "thinking of you") or should be congratulated on a marriage or birth of a child. If you know of a member who should receive any of the above, please contact Lynne by telephone at 296-2600. If information for recipient is not in the AAUW Directory, please provide it.

AAUW

Holiday Open House

December 11, 2011 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Chris and Jim Weidinger's home

***This event is for all AAUW members
and their spouses/significant others to get together
in the spirit of the Holidays.***

Bring finger food either savory or sweet.

Wine is optional. BYOB.

Hospitality will provide other hot drinks.

RSVP to Michele Powell by Dec. 4

powell.michele288@gmail.com

Please plan to carpool as parking is limited.

***Our empty little red schoolhouse will be there,
ready to welcome donations, cash or checks
for our local AAUW scholarship program.***

Letter from BeadforLife Executive Director, Devin Hibbard

Dear BeadCircle,

November is here and as the snow falls in Boulder, Colorado, and the days get shorter, I'm starting to think about what I'm thankful for. This year, I'm deeply thankful to work at BeadforLife. It is my honor and privilege to work alongside and know incredible Ugandan women who are changing their lives.

Before I left Uganda, I sat with Furaha Christine, an amazing woman from our Unity Group who inspired me with her story. Christine comes from the Congo, and fled from her village when fighting broke out. She ran into the jungle with her 1 year old child and a second on the way. After eating bugs and leaves for two weeks, she walked to a road and spent the last of her money to catch a bus to Kampala.

Before Christine met BeadforLife and joined Unity Group she worked in Kampala plowing her landlord's land and was earning barely enough to survive. Christine knew this was an opportunity, and with the money she earned, put a small down payment on a tiny house so that she could be her own landlord. With that start, she never looked back. When I met Christine she had used her bead income to start a business selling fabric from the Congo. She also farms 5 pieces of land, three of which she owns, and sells the produce in the local markets. She owns her own home and land and has purchased a second piece to build a rental house.



Says Christine, "Thank you and thank BeadforLife. I can't believe where you got me from. At the first meeting, they told us to dream what we could achieve. But even that dream I had didn't come close to what I have accomplished now. I don't know how to say thank you but I am very grateful. I know when I graduate, I will be happy." Congratulations to Christine and all the members of Unity who recently graduated! I'm filled with gratitude to know you, and to see you change your life.

I'm also grateful to each of you for being part of our BeadCircle and helping eradicate extreme poverty around the world. We invite to you join us this holiday season to share beads with your friends, host a BeadParty, or teach others about extreme poverty and how together we can change the world.

Thank you,
Devin Hibbard, Executive Director and Co-Founder





AMADOR AAUW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Chair: Judy Venckus,
venckus@aol.com



Pearl of China by Anchee Min is our book this month. On Monday, Dec. 12, we will meet at Iris Aparicio's at 2:00 for discussion. Regrets only.

BOOK LOVERS AND PAGE TURNERS

Chair: Michele Powell
Powell.michele288@gmail.com



Movie and potluck to be held on December 12. Contact Michele for further details.

GARDEN GROUPIES

Chair: Claire Wait,
clairesc@sbcglobal.net



Garden Groupies meets the third Wednesday of each month. Contact Claire for more information.

CORK & FORK

Chair: Bobbie Brubaker
dbbrubaker@softcom.net



Our group meets odd months, with significant others, in members' homes for appetizers and wine tasting.

Contact Bobbie for information.

SUPPER CLUB

Chair: Claire Wait,
clairesc@sbcglobal.net



Contact Claire for more information.

LUNCH BUNCH

Chair: Floy Goulart
f80@volcano.net



Contact Floy for more information.

ART IN ACTION

Chair: Charlene Unger,
cux2@volcano.net



We are a group that enjoys drawing and painting at various indoor and outdoor locations. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. Beginners are welcome. Contact Charlene for more information.

WALKING/STROLLING GROUP

Chair: Sheila Berg,
sberg@volcano.net



The deadline for the January Gold Filings is December 22.

Please send articles via email to Suzanne Nicholson at sooze29@yahoo.com.

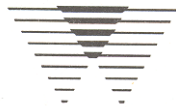
**AMADOR BRANCH AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

AAUW

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GOLD FILINGS
