

## 🌸 March Branch Meeting!

Celebrate 30 years of Paradise AAUW on Saturday, March 20, 10 AM, at Oak Knoll, 1080 Buschmann, Upstairs Room (*changed from Paradise Library*).

Our guest speaker will be Lindsey Hensher of Catalyst Domestic Violence Services.

Please attend this meeting to hear Lindsey talk about the nature of domestic violence, how it affects our community, and what we can do to help. This is a very important issue that effects more people than we know.

Coffee and tea will be served. No RSVP needed.

## 🌸 AAUW Women's History Classroom Presentations

Fourth graders in Ridge schools will have the opportunity to "meet" women important to California's development during Women's History presentations by members of the Paradise Branch of AAUW. Portrayed this year are Annie Bidwell, Dr. Ella Gatchell, and architect Julia Morgan. Students will have a chance to hear the stories of these women, handle props relating to the times, and view historical photos. Class members prepare pertinent questions and practice their interview skills by asking questions that are often challenging. The 45-minute presentations are designed to complement the existing 4<sup>th</sup> grade social studies curriculum on California history.

AAUW member Sara Baz is the granddaughter of one of Annie Bidwell's Sunday School pupils. Sara has long taken an interest in researching the Bidwell family and will take the role of Annie. Carole Chantal is a musician and will be incorporating songs of the late 1800's in her portrayal of Dr. Ella Gatchell, cousin of John Bidwell and the first woman doctor north of Sacramento. Carole Chumbler will explain the architectural achievements of Miss Julia Morgan, who designed and built over 700 buildings—schools, churches, homes, and college buildings. The Hearst family were her clients and one of her most famous building projects was the 20-year construction of William Randolph Hearst's San Simeon castle.

Mary Drew, Sidne Gray, Ronda Hoffman, Mary Johnson and Pat Nohrnberg will assist in the classrooms by sharing with the students props and photos related to the presentations. Phyllis Larsen coordinated the scheduling.

This year classroom presentations will be held from March 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> and from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>. The Adventists Academy will be included for the first time along with the twelve classrooms of the Paradise Unified School District. Contact individual schools for the date and time of presentations if you would like to see one of our "historical women" in action.

*Carole Chumbler, Women's History Chair*

## 🌸 Butte College Career Day

Early Saturday morning, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, with very cold temperatures and a hint of snow falling, Madeleine Canton, Mary Johnson, Satsie Vieth and I met at Mary's to carpool to Butte College to assist in Career Day.

The event was held on the main campus, and was open to Butte County 8<sup>th</sup>-grade girls and their parents.

Presentations were given by professional women who spoke about their careers and the kind of education and skills required for their particular jobs. Each girl was able to attend three presentations and was able to choose among a diverse group of women whose careers included veterinarian, criminalist, systems analyst, naturalist, structural engineer, pharmacist, and clinical chemical laboratory scientist, among others.

I was the presenter's assistant for both a pharmacist, Patty Poole, and an environmentalist/botanist, Elena Gregg. Patty's presentation was quite interactive as she led the girls through the process of "actually" filling a prescription.

Elena's job is specifically that of field botanist, and her passion for her work was quite evident in her presentation. Her love of nature and of being able to work outdoors was exemplified by her statement, "Oftentimes, I can't believe I'm lucky enough to actually be paid for spending my days tramping through nature and identifying and mapping plants!"

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Branching Out is published five times per year by the Paradise Branch of the American Association of University Women. AAUW Paradise Branch is committed to advancing lifelong education opportunities and equity for girls and women. We will do this while providing growth opportunities and support for our members and establishing a positive visible presence on the Paradise Ridge.

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



Following the presentations, lunch was served in the campus cafeteria, and the day concluded with members of the women's sports teams leading us on a tour of various campus departments. Mary and I toured three departments along with the girls. Each department had a demonstration that engaged the girls. In the math classroom, the teacher illustrated principles of geometry using a "magic circle" made of paper. In the Life Sciences Lab, microscopes were set up for viewing the cellular structure of some common fruits and vegetables. In the Computer Science Lab, disassembled computers were displayed along long tables, and the girls were encouraged to "get their hands inside of them" and carry out a basic component assembly step.

Madeleine again this year coordinated this project with our area's eighth-grade teachers. Thanks to her diligence (and her instructions to the teachers to give the girls last-minute reminders), there was a three-fold increase in participation! Thirty three girls attended this year, in contrast to eleven from last year.

It was a day well spent!

*Dianne Lorenz, Secretary*

## Understanding Recent Changes to California Education Legislation

Today's lecture will cover education, equal pay, and equity in sports. If you would like more complete information on any of these subjects, please let me know. I have the entire articles. You can also find entire bills on the State of California website.

### **Education:**

Federal "Race to the Top" guidelines were finalized in summer 2009. With phenomenal speed, the California Legislature passed revisions to long-standing education legislation. Signed by the governor January 7, 2010, it showed intent in the state's application to the U. S. Department of Education for funds up to \$700 million. At this time California is in a \$20 billion budget deficit quagmire, with the invoice soon to go up another \$15 billion. Even with the spectacular changes to education legislation, nothing will occur unless the \$700 million is provided to California.

### **Revisions to California education legislation suggested by federal guidelines :**

Provisions affecting teachers: SBX5 1 (Darrell Steinberg) and also ABX5 8 (Julia Brownley) Improve models for

teacher preparation, seek incentives for good teachers in low-performing schools, eliminate linking student achievement data to teacher and principal evaluation.

Use of Federal funds: SBX5 1 and ABX5 8 provide for data collection about the lowest performing schools and insistence on reform. Those schools will: take on a model to turn around the school's performance; find a mentor school to assist, close and restart the school with new teachers and principal, close the school and send students elsewhere in the district or transform the school possibly into a charter school.

ABX5 8 allows parents to petition for school reform after a full year with no improvement. SBX5 4 (Gloria Romero), aka Open Enrollment, allows parents to pull their student out of a failing school and move him/her to another public school in or out of the district, charter schools not included. SBX5 1 authorizes the state to revise curriculum content standards

*(Prepared by Claire Noonan, CA AAUW Public Policy Committee.)*

### **Equal Pay Day is Tuesday, April 20**

More than 46 years after passage of the Equal Pay Act, women continue to earn only 77 cents on the dollar to their male counterparts. Minority women face an even larger wage gap. Pay disparities affect women of all ages, races, and education levels-regardless of their family decisions.

AAUW has many suggestions for Equal Pay Activities at the branch level. Please ask; I'll be thrilled to share.

### **Title IX sports:**

Find out if the high schools in your area are in compliance with Title IX. The [AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund's](#) new Program in a Box, [Title IX Compliance: Know the Score](#), provides AAUW members with the tools you need to find out if your local high schools are Title IX compliant—and what you can do if they are not. We have heard complaints about some of our local high schools. Check it out.

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)  
[www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)  
[www.legislature.ca.gov](http://www.legislature.ca.gov)

*Carol Holzgrafe, Public Policy*



## 🌸 The View From Here

*Congratulations!* to three of our members and one of our Tech Trek campers for the recent recognition of their contributions to the Ridge community:

**Connie Rogers**, branch member since 1993, has been named Woman of the Year by the Paradise Elks Lodge in recognition of her 20 years of volunteer work at the Gold Nugget Museum, including being a driving force behind restoration of the old depot as a railroad museum, and for her editorial work at *Tales of the Ridge* and *Dogtown Nugget*.

**Madge Ebright**, a charter member who rejoined the branch in 2006, has been honored by Paradise Chapter of the Paradise Educational Organization International, of which she has also been a long-time member. The PEO has named the Madge J. Ebright Scholarship to recognize Madge's years of work in creating the "Strings in Schools" program, which has provided classical music training to more than 300 students in the Paradise schools. The scholarship will benefit women from the Paradise area who are pursuing higher education in music.

**Kelley Connor**, member since 2004, is the newly elected President of the Paradise Chamber of Commerce.

Finally, you may remember **Elise Saeger**, one of the 2009 Tech Trek campers, who spoke to us at the Soup Supper. She's obviously a very energetic young person. The Paradise Animal Shelter has named Elise the PASH Youth Volunteer of the Year.

Well done, ladies! You are representative of the community service given by so many of our members and our campers.

*Satsie Veith*, Branch President

## 🌸 Spring Luncheon is Coming!

On Saturday, May 22nd, 11:30 AM, at Oak Knoll, Paradise Branch will celebrate 30 years of service and advancing opportunities and equity for girls and women. We will honor our Charter members and also recognize others who were involved during the formation years of our Branch.

Our HAT DAY contest, which was last celebrated at our 20th anniversary, is being revived. Get started on your personal hat, portraying your own special interest! Prepaid reservations will be required. Deadline dates and further details will be in the May Branching Out.

If you have any questions call Marygrace at 873-6252.

## 🌸 Interbranch Luncheon Report

The annual AAUW Interbranch Luncheon was hosted by the Gridley Branch on February, 6. A nice lunch was served at the First Presbyterian Church.

The speaker was Marty Dunlop, who has lived in Butte County for forty years and worked as a counselor at Butte College for many years before getting a law degree. Her interest is in North State environment which led to her topic on California water.

Marty outlined background information on distribution, ownership and regulation of water usage. She encouraged members to stay aware of water issues and protect the North State environment. She used the Tuscan Aquifer, the only healthy aquifer in the world, as an example of good water storage. She pointed out that the pumping of water in Orland by an international water company will affect water quality and supply in all of the North State. Marty emphasized what happens in one place affects everyone and we need to use water wisely, both individually and as a community and state.

Branches also shared coming events:

Oroville-Tea Luncheon

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Lenna Devore at 532-6475

Marysville-Yuba City-May Garden Tour

*Pat Nohrnberg*

## 🌸 Interest Groups and Special Dates

**Evening Book Group** will meet Friday, April 9 at 7:30 PM to discuss *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court* by Jeffrey Toobin. The book for our May gathering is *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson. If you're interested in joining us for either discussion, call Mary Johnson at 877-3906 or Joan Regan at 872-4613

**Morning Book Group** will meet Thursday, March 25 between 10 AM and noon. You may discuss a book of your choice. In April we will read *Three Cups of Tea*; the book for May is *Bee Season*. Contact Connie Ferrell for further information at 873-0725.

**Pot Luck Group** welcomes new members—couples or singles. You cook only one dish and enjoy a great meal and even greater conversation. If you are interested, please call Marilyn Eldridge at 873-1029.



## CONVENTION:

Consider attending one or more days, April 30-May 2 in San Ramon. Total information on schedule, speakers and how to register are at [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org) —or ask me. On May 2, after convention closes, former Tech Trekkers and staff members will gather for a reunion.

*Carol Holzgrafe, Public Policy*

## Calendar

(All Board Meetings at 7 PM, Oak Knoll Library)

### March 2010

Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup>: Board Meeting

Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup>: Branch Meeting, 10 AM, Oak Knoll

### April 2010

Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup>: Board Meeting

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup>: Branch Meeting, 7 PM, Oak Knoll

### May 2010

Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup>: Board Meeting

Saturday, 22<sup>th</sup>: Spring Luncheon, 11:30 AM, Oak Knoll

## Dramatis Personae

President:	Satsie Veith
Treasurer:	Kay Hinerman
Secretaries:	Dianne Lorenz (board) Merrie McLaughlin (general)
VP EF/LAF:	Connie Ferrell
VP Membership:	Katie Rosenberg
Editor:	Jim Holzgrafe

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## Catch Us On The Web!

[www.aauwparadise.org](http://www.aauwparadise.org)



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