

🍷 Report from the 2011 Convention

Convention, April 8-10, though smaller in attendance than usual, still provided laughs, learning, sharing and —surprise!—parties.

I drove to the Irvine Marriott in time for Thursday's board meeting, spent most of my time working on Tech Trek connections, produced a workshop for TT branch coordinators including talks by two former Tech Trekkers from Southern California. (Impressive kids). Members could also attend workshops on finance, The Doer, Speech Trek, branch websites, Start Smart, Title IX, campus connections, human trafficking, public policy and more.

Speakers during the weekend included Linda Hallman, AAUW executive director, Cynthia D'Amour, a rah-rah leadership-building speaker who critiqued branch websites (they should be simple, have pictures, tell who we are and, above all, have a large button that says "Join Us") and Sheila Kuehl, Cal. State Senator who backs universal state health care. Rousing. We learned more about One Member/One Vote going into effect in 2012.

Saturday night's 90th Anniversary (AAUW California) Gala dinner highlighted a video of 90 years of branch activities (by those who submitted) led by 8 former state presidents (including a roving reporter). The 90 years ended with the Title IX efforts of Santa Clara

County IBC and the on-going investigation of Chico high schools conducted by the Office of Civil Rights from a complaint filed by my other branch—Chico. Chico is also celebrating its 90th anniversary.

Sunday started off with a breakfast talk by Charlotte Newhart, the AAUW CA advocate. See my article on public policy. Lilly Ledbetter spoke at the Sunday Funds lunch about her travails over pay equity. You will

all know about Lilly; if you don't, do look her up. The best part (for me) was that she and I sat at the same table on Saturday night, and, when the presidents left to perform the program, we had time to talk a bit. Lilly has a touching but determined story. AND the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act is still not fully implemented. Paradise gave \$910 to AAUW Funds for \$17.17 per member (not bad!)

The second Tech Trek Reunion followed convention with dozens of former campers hearing inspiring speakers, former campers with stunning stories to tell and break out sessions to reconnect and catch up with camp friends. Marie Wolbach, Tech Trek founder, organized the Reunion. The girls always say how much camp meant to them.

Mark your calendars for April 14–16 for the 2012 AAUW CA convention, at the Marriott Hotel in Santa Clara.

Carol Holzgrafe

AAUW Spring Fling POTLUCK LUNCHEON 11:30 to 1:30 May 21, 2011

We will be having lunch in a new two-story house recently built as a Retreat House. It is situated on a knoll overlooking the valley with an unobstructed view of the Butte mountains.

The driveway is off Clark Rd., 0.6 miles south of the Paradise Airport at the 40mph turn. Make a left hand turn when you see our AAUW sign on the gate.

It is recommended that you car pool.

Please call Rosemary Peterson for reservations:
877-0902 no later than May 13th.

We will have a list of items for the potluck that you can sign up for.

One or two Tech Trek students will briefly share how they benefited from your generous scholarships last summer. There may be a few other end of the year surprises for you as well.



🌿 The View from Here

I am writing to you today from a local hospital. My mother has had an incident and look forward to her returning home in the near future. Thank you Lani McManus for arranging for such an outstanding, informative speaker at our April meeting. The information Carol shared is helping both my mother and I deal with various medical situations that have occurred during her hospital stay. Knowledge is power. She is feeling in charge of her situation and so am I.

I do not have access to my notes and my brain is a little fuzzy just now, so my message to you may lack specifics or I may forget to thank someone. Anything I have forgotten I will share with you at our May celebration.

Where has the time gone? This is my last message to you as your President. It has been a privilege serving as your President this last year. The past months have been filled with great accomplishments, much laughter, tears due to the passing of members and their partners, change, and excitement. One person did not make these things happen or go through these experiences alone. Together everyone achieved more or helped each other along their journey through life. What a great team and special friendships we have!

Thank you Paulette Jones and Satsie Veith for stepping forward to revise our ByLaws and to those members that offered additional input. The ByLaws have been sent to our State representative for review. We hope to present them to you prior to our May meeting for review and will be asking for your approval of these ByLaws at our May meeting.

Year end review: This year we were successful in raising funds for EF, Tech Trek, our Frances Pence Scholarship, and Branch operations. Members did school presentations during Women's History Month, assisted with the selection of the Women's Improvement Scholarship recipient, and increased our membership and member participation in our programs. We also had fun working with friends and making new friends. Friendship and knowing we are not alone is what AAUW is all about.

The future looks bright! You have told us that AAUW is important to you. You let it be known that you value and want our Branch to continue. You have stepped

up to the plate and volunteered to work to ensure the future of our Branch. The future of our Branch is in your hands.

Again, thank you for a memorable year. I look forward to celebrating our accomplishments with you at our May meeting.

Ronda Hoffman, President

🌿 Public Policy for May

The AAUW CA public policy committee has finished reviewing upcoming bills in the state legislature and has selected some to support, to oppose or to watch. As always, the targeted bills mostly concern women, children and education. They cover medical consent for minors, health care for autism, vehicle license fees, family and medical leave, human trafficking of minors (!!), shackling of pregnant inmates and more.

You can find a detailed list of these bills (please do) at www.aauw-ca.org, click on Advocacy, then bill package. You can check the status of any bill at www.leginfo.ca.org and entering the bill number (from the AAUW bill package).

Our advocate in Sacramento, Charlotte Newhart, encourages us to contact our legislators—especially if they are unfriendly to AAUW focus. She said the best way to change legislators is to first change voting attitudes. We might consider this.

While email and phone calls continue to be effective, Newhart promises that a personal visits to the district (or Sacramento) office or an actual letter is more memorable. And they do remember. Each staff lists how many contacts on which side of a subject and how the contact was made.

“Nothing beats a personal visit or letter,” she said.

Newhart also said that women in the legislature have made a difference. There are far more bills concerning women and children, major social, health and education programs and they come from these women.

Please do look at the bill package; it matters to you and your family.

Carol Holzgrafe, Public Policy Chair



🌸 Tech Trek: June, 2011 at UC-Davis

The camper selection process gets harder each year as outstanding young women are nominated by their science/math teachers.

Our 2011 scholarship recipients will be Alyssa Beller from Pine Ridge School, Louise Norris-Smith and McKinnah Sinclair from Paradise Intermediate. They will spend a week on the UC, Davis campus at the newest Tech Trek Science/Math camp, to be held June 25th–July 2nd.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our non-event-Fundraiser. Total contributions totaled \$2380, which has allowed us to send three young women and still have funds remaining towards the 2012 camp.

A scholarship costs our branch \$750, with each camper's parents asked to pay a \$50 fee, to make a total of \$800. Started in 1998, AAUW Tech Trek celebrates their thirteenth year this summer. Paradise Branch will be celebrating twelve years at Tech Trek. Including this summer, we will have sent thirty-six Ridge young women to Tech Trek Camp. Three of our past campers have returned as Junior Counselors.

A special thanks to Connie Ferrell and Carol Holzgrafe who have been involved in our selection process for many years. We changed the essay question last year to "Imagine your life in 2025." We are now reading special and sometimes far-out responses from our nominees who will be famous or on the way to outstanding careers.

Tanya Angel—Valedictorian, PHS '09—will complete her sophomore year at UC, Davis, on her way to becoming a Veterinarian.

Lauryn Gregorio will be one of this years PHS valedictorians, and has won a full scholarship at USF nursing school. You may have seen the big article in the Paradise Post about Lauryn's senior project to raise funds to feed American children.

Your Tech Trek Coordinator will be participating at the Davis camp, as part of Professional Women's Night, when campers have an opportunity to talk to numerous women about their career choices.

Marygrace Colby, Tech Trek Coordinator

🌸 Community Connections

Paradise Public Library, like all libraries in Butte County, is facing a lack of funding for books. Our librarians and volunteers are stretched to the limit. One helpful thing we can do is to join Friends of the Library (forms available at the library)—since it is the Friends, and not the county, who are currently supplying us with new materials. Buying books at the book sale is a help. One even more helpful thing would be to sit in on a board meeting, which you can do. The board meets the first Thursday of every month; the next meeting is on May 5th. I'd like quite a few of you to be there! We need new members, and we know it. I will be there in May and July to introduce anyone who comes.

Sally McNall

🌸 Memorial Book Fund

Thank you to all who donated to the AAUW Memorial Book Fund this past year. At the March AAUW luncheon meeting, we presented twenty hardcover or library-bound books to the Paradise School libraries in celebration of Women's History Month.

Each book has an AAUW bookplate affixed to the inside cover with the name of Katie Rosenberg, Everett Crist, Stan Hamilton, Herb Peterson, or Scott and Lindsey Cuttingham, who were remembered or honored with this year's donations.

The books ranged from early elementary reading levels and interests through high school levels. The titles covered topics ranging from historical women we are all familiar with, such as Amelia Earhart and Sacagawea, to lesser-known women who made history in the Industrial Revolution or with individual state voting rights.

This year several books covered the topic of women as pilots in both peace and wartime. Perhaps the two most unusual books focused on the history of women and bicycles, with the titles *Tillie the Terrible Swede: How One Woman, a Sewing Needle and a Bicycle Changed History* and *Wheels of Courage: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (With a Few Flat Tires Along the Way)*. This was an extremely successful project this year due to the generous donations of our members.

Sidne Gray



🌿 Other Dates and Interest Groups

Evening Book Group will meet Friday, April 29, at 7:30 PM to discuss *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. In June, we'll discuss *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan. If you're interested in joining us at either gathering, call Mary Johnson at 877-3906 or Joan Regan at 872-4613.

Gadabouts Group For information or questions please call Paulette Jones at 877-1163.

Morning Book Group meets every 4th Thursday of the month between 10 and noon. To join our group, contact Connie Ferrell at 873-0725.

Paper Arts Group: Wednesday, May 11th, 1:30 pm at Ronda Hoffman's home; for details call Laurie Baker, 872-1452, or email bookmark2@sbcglobal.net.

Pot Luck Group is open to new members. The group meets once a month on the second Sunday of the month. Anyone that is interested in this group may call Marilyn Eldridge at 873-1029.

New Groups: Anyone interested in starting an interest group call Cheryl Caldwell at 877-8238.

🌿 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!

Please fill out and send in the attached/enclosed renewal form with a check for next years dues!

🌿 Dramatis Personae

President:	Ronda Hoffman
Treasurer:	Lynn Eads
Secretaries:	Jean Crist Merrie McLaughlin
VP EF/LAF:	Connie Ferrell
VP Membership:	Paulette Jones
VP Programs:	Lani McManus
Editor:	Jim Holzgrafe





AAUW – Paradise

2011/2012 Dues Notice

**Please return completed form with payment
by June 15, 2011**

- ▶ Send to: Treasurer
 AAUW – Paradise
 P. O. Box 1585
 Paradise, CA 95967-1585

- ▶ Please check the current directory, making any corrections or additions on this form. Be sure to include your email address. Note: Please enter your name in the space below and *only* that information that needs to be changed from the current directory listing.

- ▶ Current branch policy is to send the *Branching Out* newsletter to your email address. If you do not have access to a computer, we will send you a hard copy at branch expense. If you do have an email address but still wish to receive a hard copy, we ask that you add a subscription fee of \$4.00 to your dues payment (see ** below). Please check here if you wish to subscribe for a hard copy of the newsletter and include the \$4.00 with your dues payment.

Name (as you wish it to appear in the directory)	Spouse/partner's name
Mailing address	City/ZIP
Street address (optional)	City/ZIP
Home telephone *	Business telephone
Fax	Email address

* Circle your phone number if you want a notation in the directory that the number is unlisted.

Degree	Major	Institution/Location

Dues are distributed as follows:

	<u>Regular Membership</u>	<u>Life Membership</u>
Association	\$49.00	\$0.00
State	16.00	16.00
Branch	<u>19.00</u>	<u>19.00</u>
TOTAL dues only	\$84.00	\$35.00
** Newsletter subscription (see note above)	<u>4.00</u>	<u>4.00</u>
TOTAL dues + newsletter subscription	\$88.00	\$39.00