

## 🌿 Public Policy for November

These are some highlights (or lowlights) of the month, brought to us by AAUW CA Legislative Advocate Shannon Smith-Crowley and Sue Miller, our state public policy guru.

- The Topeka, Kansas, City Council recently repealed their law that made domestic violence a crime—during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, no less. Santa has the council on his “Been Bad” list; coals for them.
- The U.S. House approved anti-choice legislation recently that would ban women from using the health care reform law’s tax subsidies to purchase insurance plans that also cover abortions. The bill (H.R. 358), would also allow health-care institutions to refuse to provide abortions if they morally object. Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi spoke passionately against the bill, saying that it would essentially allow caregivers to not treat a woman who is dying on a hospital floor. (Coals to the House too).

AAUW supports the right of every woman to safe, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services. And now this:

- Debra Bowen, the Secretary of State (CA) just announced that proponents of two constitutional amendment initiatives—of great interest to AAUW members—may begin collecting signatures. **The initiatives would prohibit abortions for young women under 18 without parental notification, would require physicians to report abortion information to the Dept. of Public Health and will allow physicians to be sued for violating this provision.** Certain waivers from judges, in medical emergencies or by notarized statements of parental abuse from the police or Child Protective Services apply. The Legislative Analyst predicts poten-

tial costs of several million dollars annually for health and social services programs, court administration, and state health agency administration combined.

The Secretary’s tracking number for this measure is 1514; the Attorney General’s number is 11-0037. Many more details at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and [aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org)

Members may meet citizens collecting signatures at Target and other local stores. Feel free to ask why they think this is a good idea, what the unintended consequences may be, and, especially, if they approve adding several million dollars to the state budget. Would they be willing to increase their taxes to pay for this? And, of course, how this figures with so many local people who want government entirely out of their lives. Please share any answers you get.

*Carol Holzgrafe,*  
Public Policy Chair

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY GATHERING

Gold Nugget Museum  
Tuesday, December 6  
Commencing at 5:30 PM

Members, spouses and guests are invited!

Please bring your favorite “Christmas Goodie” *hors d’oeuvres* or dessert finger food for the buffet table, and an unwrapped, new book for children, ages 1–17.

The books are collected by member Kelley Connor and taken to the Family Resource Center for distribution to children in need through their “Giving Program.”

## 🌿 Iron Jaw Angels

Come join us for the showing of “Iron Jaw Angels” on Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 1:00–3:30 PM at Ronda’s, 910 Thomasson Lane, Paradise. Minimum of 5 and maximum of 15 guests. **Reservations required to Ronda at 872-3031 by Monday, Nov. 14.**

Popcorn and drinks will be provided.

“Iron Jaw Angels” takes place from 1912 to 1920, when a group of fiery young suffragettes led by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns band together to wheedle the United States into adapting a Constitutional amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote. Along the way, they incur the wrath of President Woodrow Wilson and anger other suffragette leaders.

After seeing this movie you will never ask yourself “Why should I vote?”

*Ronda Hoffman*

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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, philanthropy, and research.



## Having Our Say

Our 2011-12 AAUW year has launched with a great start! The Fall luncheon in September, graciously hosted by Joan Regan on the deck of her home with its spectacular canyon view, was a great success. Good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

Thank you to Karen Hilleman and Jan Keller for providing and coordinating the beverages, and to our “hospitality committee” of Joan Regan, Marianne Heaton, Lynn Eads, Merrie McLaughlin, Kay Zimmerlee, and Dianne Lorenz for the planning, coordinating and setting up for this event. And we express our appreciation to Joan, Loy, and Alex Lorenz for their parking/valet services.

Just one of our three Pence Scholarship recipients was able to join us. As she spoke, expressing her gratitude and voicing her appreciation of how much the scholarship helped her, I was reminded of AAUW’s larger mission—that of actively working for equity and educational opportunities for all women. Though I believe I’m about to pen an oxymoron, I must admit I was filled with a sense of “humble pride” being a part of this group of women who are able to help make a difference in other women’s lives.

...And, ladies, kudos to all of you for the phenomenal success of your carpooling efforts! May I suggest that we continue this as an ongoing effort for the rest of our AAUW activities this year. Besides the obvious given that carpooling is environmentally friendly, it is also member friendly! By that, I mean that it’s a great way to get to know one another better. I’ve had some wonderful, more intimate conversations with my AAUW friends as we’ve carpooled to various functions. Also, many of our members are not able to drive themselves to meetings anymore, particularly at night, so it just makes practical sense to offer to drive these members.

Kudos also to Ronda Hoffman, who is handling the publicity for our Branch this year. With our AAUW season just underway, Ronda has already placed three articles in the Chico EnterpriseRecord highlighting our activities. This is, of course, excellent PR for us, and increases our exposure in the community. If you have noteworthy news about our Paradise Branch, please let

Ronda know. Contact her by phone, 872-3031, or email her at: [rondah@earthlink.net](mailto:rondah@earthlink.net).

By the time you are reading this edition of Branching Out, we will have had our second general meeting of the year. It was held at the Paradise Library, and Program Director Marianne Heaton arranged for a knowledgeable speaker who gave a timely and informative update on the topic “Changes in Medicare.” Thank you to evening book group members Mary Johnson, Dianne Lorenz, Sally McNall, and Kay Zimmerlee for providing the refreshments, and additionally to Mary J. for the lovely autumn decor that graced the tables.

Note that there is no general meeting in November. Our next branch meeting will be the annual holiday celebration that takes place at the Gold Nugget Museum. It will be Tuesday, Dec. 6, commencing at 5:30 p.m. Make plans now to join us!

*Lynn Eads & Dianne Lorenz,*  
Co-Facilitators

## Paper Dolls

Have a break from Christmas shopping and decorating, and come and play on Thursday, December 15 at 2:00 pm. Bring a face photo of your favorite person, grandchild, pet, or choose one of the host’s, and make a paper doll. Maximum of 10 people. Reservations required, to 873-0081. Deadline is Tuesday, December 12.

*Liz Mesones*  
13905 Iona Ct., Magalia  
[emesones@comcast.net](mailto:emesones@comcast.net)

## Just One Thing... - Help Needed -

Please contact Lynn Eads ([leeads@comcast.net](mailto:leeads@comcast.net) or 877-2565) or Dianne Lorenz ([de4lorenz@comcast.net](mailto:de4lorenz@comcast.net) or 872-8967) if you are able to “step up to the plate” and volunteer for one or more of the following needs:

Volunteer to take minutes at our Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 (held at Dianne Lorenz’ home starting at 6:30 p.m.).

Arrange a speaker and venue for a possible program in February, March or April, 2012.

Volunteer to portray Annie Bidwell or Dame Shirley (Louise Clapp) or develop another woman from California’s history for Women’s History presentations to the schools in March, 2012. (Contact Carole Chumbler, [bandcchumbler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bandcchumbler@sbcglobal.net) or 877-5635).



## 🌸 One-Shot Events

To provide additional opportunities for our members to get together, and for new members to become acquainted with the group, we are arranging some one-time-only events. Several members have volunteered to host these.

Ronda Hoffman will host the movie *Iron Jaw Angels* on November 16, 2011, from 1:00 to 3:30 PM; Liz Mesones will host *Make a Paper Doll* on December 15 at 2:00 PM. See this Newsletter for their invitations.

Lynn Eads welcomes members and significant others for a two-table scrabble contest. Maximum number of people: 8

Sally McNall offers a journaling workshop. Maximum number of people: 10.

Paulette Jones will teach members how to make scrap fabric and button brooches. Maximum number of people: 6

Ronda Hoffman will show members how to make a clothespin holder. Maximum number of people: 15

*Joan Regan, "One-Shot" Coordinator*

## 🌸 Women's History Month

Do you have a flair for the dramatic and enjoy delving into California history? Consider being a presenter in 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms in March as part of our AAUW Women's History observance.

Branch members portray women important in California's history and share stories about the lives of their character during a 20 minute presentation in individual 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. Costumes, historical photos and artifacts have been collected and add to the presentations.

I am looking for members willing to take on the roles of Annie Bidwell, wife of the founder of Chico, and Louise Clapp, the author of *The Shirley Letters* about life in the mining camps along the Feather River. Research materials and scripts from past presentations are available and help will be given you in developing your presentations. An AAUW member will be going into the classroom with you to assist as needed. Your commitment would be for 2 to 3 mornings during a two-week period in March. You would set your own schedule.

We have two presenters but need at least one more in order to offer this program to the schools, who need confirmation by early January. Be a part of this worthwhile program and help acquaint our young people with the important contributions women have made to California's history.

*Carole Chumbler*

## 🌸 2011 - 2012 INTEREST GROUPS

Morning Books 4th Thursday: 10 AM	Connie Ferrell 873-0725
Evening Books Selected Friday nights 7:30 PM	Mary Johnson 877-3906 Joan Regan 872-4613
Potluck Date varies: TBA	Marilyn Eldridge 873-1029
Paper Arts Date varies: TBA	Laurie Baker 872-1452
Bridge Babes Dates varies: 1:30 PM	Gail Prince 877-0554
Intermediate Bridge Dates TBA: 1:00 PM	Karen Hilleman 873-2241
Bridge Group II 2nd Friday: 1:00 PM	Rosemary Peterson 873-1174
Bridge Group III 3rd Friday: 1:00 PM	Jane Lesko 872-8048
Bridge Group IV 4th Friday: 1:00 PM	Kay Hinerman 872-1225
Gourmet Group Dates TBA: 6 PM	Karen Hilleman 873-2241
Movie Matinees Dates/Times: TBA	Carole Chumbler 877-5635
Women's History March, 2012	Carole Chumbler 877-5635
Hiking Date Varies: 9 AM	Mary Drew 873-3916
Gadabouts Dates/Times: TBA	Kay Hinerman 872-1225
Dining Out	<i>Needs coordinator</i>



## 🌸 Interest Group Dates

**Reminder:** To enable our members to fully participate as their time and interest allow, send news and information about your group's activities to me at [jim@holzgrafe.com](mailto:jim@holzgrafe.com) for each issue (September, November, January, March and May) of the newsletter.

**Evening Book Group** will meet Friday, December 2 at 7:30 PM to discuss *The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine* by Michael Lewis. If you're interested in joining us on that date or at a future 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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month between 10 and noon. To join our group, contact Connie Ferrell at 873-0725.

**Pot Luck Group** is open to new members. The group meets once a month on the second Sunday of the month. Call Marilyn Eldridge at 873-1029.

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## 🌸 Dramatis Personae

Co-Facilitators:	Lynn Eads Dianne Lorenz
Financial Officer:	Joan Regan
Secretary:	Merrie McLaughlin
Directors:	
AAUW Funds:	Mary Peterson
Membership:	Kay Zimmerlee
Programs:	Marianne Heaton
Editor:	Jim Holzgrafe

