

🌿 Public Policy for January

California State AAUW, San Jose, Morgan Hill, and other branches have endorsed SB 810, a State Senate bill proposing single payer universal health care in California.

According to Gloria Leonard, Public Policy Chair, AAUW San Jose, "SB810 would dramatically reduce premiums for businesses and families, cover all medically necessary health care, eliminate the risk of medical bankruptcy, and is proven to contain health care spending over the long term." It is also "...the only plan that responsibly funds retiree health care."

Branch members are encouraged to contact their state legislators encouraging the bill's passage. In our case, that is State Senator Doug LaMalfa, <http://cssrc.us/web/4/> (click on "Contact Me" to email a message). This is the Oroville office; he doesn't seem to have one in Chico. 1550 Myers St, Suite C, Oroville, CA 95965, Phone: (530) 532-5860, Fax: (530) 532-5865

The bill is sponsored by Senator Mark Leno (San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma). Sen. LaMalfa is not a co-author.

Nationwide AAUW political headlines you may be interested in, details available at www.aauw.org/ or ask Carol:

- Women's labor participation rate is lowest in almost 20 years;
- Education department releases data on bullying laws, policies;
- FBI board votes to broaden definition of rape;
- U.S. foreign aid will promote gay rights;
- Report: For-Profit college students less likely to succeed;

- AAUW Funds seven campus sexual harassment projects – in South Dakota, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, Indiana, Florida and Kentucky. This effort is funded by \$28,000 in Campus Action Project grants, a result of Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School.

Do check www.aauw-ca.org/ and www.aauw.org/

Carol Holzgrafe, Public Policy

🌿 Soup's On!

Join us at our Soup Supper event to hear what Chico resident and "live wire" Donna Steiger has to share with us. As a young woman she served as a WAVE in WWII and at age 79 she became the oldest Peace Corp volunteer. In the years in between she had a background in theater, radio and tourism. When the Berlin Wall came down in 1990 she saw the potential for tourism in Bulgaria, Slovakia, and Poland and worked under the auspices of International Executive Service Corps as a consultant to help develop western tourism standards in those countries.

In her visits to Bulgaria she saw that life there was seriously lacking for people with disabilities. Traditionally babies with disabilities were killed or kept out of sight with the mother being blamed for the imperfections. As

part of her Peace Corp assignment Ms. Steiger helped start a psychological research center in Sofia, Bulgaria to help people with disabilities feel empowered. "It's to do with disabilities, to teach people tolerance and acceptance in everyday life and in the work place because they have been isolated and given a raw deal."

SOUP SUPPER!

Monday, January 30, 5:30 PM
Appletree Village
1400 Kilcrest Circle (off Clark Road)
in Paradise

An array of soups with international flavors will be served along with salad, bread and dessert. The cost for the meal is \$12 per person.

Reservations are required and may be made by email (aauwreservations@gmail.com) or by calling Merrie (877-1997). The reservation deadline is January 23rd. Remember that Branch policy is that **a reservation made is a reservation paid.**

Please bring your own soup bowl and utensils. Dishes for salad and dessert will be provided.

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.



Ms. Steiger celebrated her 90th birthday in December, and, although she is legally blind, she still works as a consultant and inspirational speaker.

Hats off to the Chefs:

Many thanks to the following members who volunteered to be soup-makers for our upcoming Soup Supper:

- Marilyn Eldridge
- Marianne Heaton
- Kay Hinerman
- Carol Holzgrafe
- Lynn Layton
- Lani McManus
- Sally McNall
- Rosemary Peterson
- Louise Ross

Carole Chumbler

AAUW Memorial Book Fund

Each year in March, as part of our Women's History month, AAUW purchases and donates books on women's history to local school libraries. The reading and interest levels of the books range from primary grades through high school. Last year, we were able to donate twenty books such as *The Cowgirl Way: Hats Off to America's Women of the West*, *The Roaring 20's: The First Cross-Country Air Race for Women*, *Wheels of Courage: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (With a Few Flat Tires Along the Way)*, and *Where the Action Was: Women War Correspondents in World War II*. Our donations have increased each of the last few years and we're looking forward to making the purchases and presentations for this year.

To continue this tradition, you can honor a past or present member of AAUW by making a donation in her name. For this year's book purchases, donations will be accepted through early February 2012. Please make checks payable to "AAUW Paradise Branch" and include the name of the person you are honoring. If you would like an acknowledgement of your donation sent to someone, please include that information also. Checks may be mailed to: Paradise AAUW, P.O. Box 1585, Paradise, CA 95967-1585.

Sidne Gray

Having Our Say

The holidays are behind us now, and it is time to look forward to the second half of the year. We have a number of special events coming up: our annual soup supper, the IBC luncheon (the speaker will be from Lundberg Farms, which is, as I'm sure most of you are aware, our own local producer of organic farm products), Women's History presentations in our local schools, our annual spring luncheon, as well as our on-going interest groups. There's something for everyone! Please see elsewhere in this newsletter and future newsletters for more information about any activity that interests you.

Since the last issue of Branching Out, we've had the opportunity to come together and visit at our annual holiday party. It seems that this gathering is one of the most popular events of the year, and this year was no exception! We had a very good turnout, including a number of guests and spouses. As always, the buffet tables were laden with delicious holiday goodies. And the wine and other beverages flowed freely... all in all, a perfect way to celebrate the season!

Thank you to Louise Ross and her committee for coordinating this event this year. We are appreciative of the Gold Nugget Museum for once again allowing us the use of this delightful venue in which to hold our party. And thank you, too, to Kelley Conner for gathering all the children's books generously donated by our members for the Family Resource Center's "Giving Program." A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Wini Steiner Appreciation Plate by Lani McManus to Ronda Hoffman. Lani was not able to be at the gathering, but Jim McManus stood in for her and read Lani's letter of appreciation to Ronda.

As we continue with our program for the rest of the year, there are still plenty of opportunities to help out. Please watch our "Help Needed" column for ways in which you can participate. Remember our mantra, "Just One Thing!" Also, don't forget about car pooling whenever possible. With the winter season upon us, it becomes more problematic for many of our members to drive themselves. So please, be the one to initiate driving yourself and at least one other member to an event or meeting. Just think, if we all did that, we would reduce our fuel consumption and our "carbon footprint" for that particular occasion by 50%!

And remember to try out one or more of our "One Shot"



programs as they come up. We've already had a couple of programs, and there are more on the horizon.

In closing, we wish you all a healthy and happy new year, and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Lynn Eads & Dianne Lorenz,
Co-Facilitators

IBC LUNCHEON

Saturday, February 4, 2012, 11:30 AM, at Copa de Oro, 1445 Myers Street, Oroville.

Cost is \$12.00 per person (plus tip), which includes entree (choice of Chicken Caesar Salad, Vegetarian Pasta Primavera, or Shrimp Pasta Primavera) and a beverage (soft drink, coffee or tea).

The program will feature a speaker from Lundberg Farms, Richvale, CA. (Lundberg Farms products are sold in many food stores and their products are also showcased at their new store in Richvale)

Reservations are required and can be made by emailing auwreservations@gmail.com, or by calling Lynn Eads at 877-2565. Please specify number of people attending, choice(s) of entree, and whether or not you want to carpool to Oroville. Checks should be made out to "AAUW-Paradise Branch" and mailed to AAUW, P O Box 1585, Paradise, CA 95967-1585, prior to **Thursday, January 19, 2012**.

All members are invited and encouraged to attend this luncheon!

Marianne Heaton, Programs Director

One-Shot Events

• **Are you a Scrabble lover?** If so, please join us at Lynn Eads' home for an afternoon of Scrabble on Wednesday, March 21, 2012, from 1:00 p.m. until approximately 4:00 p.m. We will have 2 tables of Scrabble players (4 at each table). Reservations are needed; please email (leeads@comcast.net) or call (877-2565). Singles or couples (spouses) are welcome.

• **Sunday Afternoon at the Movies and Discussion: *AUTISM the Musical*.** March 4, 2012, 3:00-5:00 at the home of Louise Ross, 5350 Harrison Road, Paradise. Bring munchies; wine/soda provided. Limit: 12; RSVP 872-8341.

• Come to Sally McNall's for a quiet afternoon of reflection and writing, and experience a journaling technique that integrates many levels of our experience as women. Be prepared to write about our work, loss (and gain), our bodies, and what we really want! 1:00-4:00 at 520 Crestwood Drive, a Saturday in February or March, depending on the needs of those who sign up. We need at least six; email Sally at samcnall@csuchico.edu. Tea and cookies provided.

Joan Regan, "One-Shot" Coordinator

New Members

We have another new member who is returning after a number of years.

Kristina Adams was born in Inglewood, CA. She was, as she puts it, in the first round of the old baby-boomers. When she was 16, her family moved to Chico to get out of the big city. She graduated from Chico High School, then married and had two children, a boy and a girl. Her family lived in a rural area of Chico where they had a farm. When her children started school, she attended and graduated from CSU Chico. She then obtained her accounting certification and became a CPA, with an emphasis on tax work. In her youth, she had worked for her father, also an accountant, and continued through the years until her father sold his practice. She also worked for CPA firms in Chico, and taught at CSU Chico. She retired in 2010.

In retirement, she remains very busy. She has 4 grandchildren and is very involved with them. Her hobbies include sewing, quilting, dying fabrics, traveling, doing Yoga and reading. She continues to volunteer at the local public radio, KCHO, every week. She recently obtained a Bernese Mountain dog who weighs 75 lbs. now and is still growing. Taking care of the big puppy keeps her very busy too.

We are happy to welcome Kristina back to our Paradise Branch.

Kay Zimmerlee, Membership Director



🌿 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 for each issue (September, November, January, March and May) of the newsletter.

Evening Book Group will meet Friday, February 3 at 7:30 PM to discuss *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver. The book for our March gathering is *The Tiger's Wife*, by Téa Obreht. If you're interested in joining us for either discussion, call Dianne Lorenz at 872-8967.

Gadabouts Group For information or questions please call Kay Hinerman at 872-1225.

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 Next meeting on Monday, January 23rd at Peg Ramsdell's home. Contact Laurie Baker, bookmark2@sbcglobal.net or 872-1452

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.

🌿 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

