

## ❧ Paradise AAUW General Meeting

### *Africa: It's Not All About Ebola, and Other Tales from Afar*

You've heard the "war stories" about the U.S. going into countries to help: guns and such. And you've heard the varying results.

Now we have a chance to hear from someone in the forefront of how American aid—the actually helpful kind—is administered in some of the poorest and most troubled countries on earth.

On November 11, Chico AAUW member Margaret McCarthy will relate her experiences, first in the Peace Corps as a teacher in Somalia, and then as a USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development) operative in Eastern and Southern Africa and elsewhere.

Since her partial retirement in late 2008 Margaret spends months each year in such interesting places as Afghanistan, Egypt, Kenya, Iraq, Pakistan, and, most recently, South Sudan, where she replaces station staff on leave.

Margaret will show a few slides of her favorite places (she does love Africa) and share artifacts from a career representing the best America has to give. You won't want to miss this. Bring your spouse, partner, friends and neighbors. They won't want to miss this either.

**Tuesday, November 11, noon at the Paradise Library Community Room, 5922 Clark Road. Bring a brown bag lunch and a drink. Cookies will magically appear.**

The talk is open to the public, of course.

Questions? Carol Holzgrafe, 873-6906

*Carol Holzgrafe, Facilitator*

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**Branch member Lynn Layton died on Nov. 4. She has been a valued member of Paradise AAUW since 1996. No service is planned.**

## **ANNUAL HOLIDAY GATHERING**

**Tuesday December 9th at 5:30 pm  
Gold Nugget Museum on Pearson**

Spouses, partners and friends  
are invited too.

Please bring finger food: savory hors  
d'oeuvre or dessert

Wine and cider provided—  
monetary donations accepted.

Please bring an unwrapped book for a child  
from toddler to high school age. Member  
Kelley Connor will deliver them to the Family  
Resource Center.

If you need—or can provide—transportation  
to the party, call Marygrace Colby at 873-  
6252

*Thanks to the Paper Arts Interest Group for or-  
ganizing this event.*

## ❧ The View From Here

Since we last talked in September our branch has been humming along nicely. At the brunch, attended by a horde of 27, including one new member (more about that later), we did the following:

- Approved by laws changes generally choosing simpler language, allowing the extra details to move to the policies and procedures.
- Approved the annual budget (thank you Sue Griffin and Satsie Veith)
- Heard from Sarah Peters, one of our Tech Trekkers
- Heard the latest about, and signed up for, Interest Groups
- Brunched well and talked. A lot.

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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.



### (The View From Here, continued)

Since the last “Branching Out” we enjoyed Wine and Whine at The Wine Room and toured the Sierra Nevada Brewery, organized by Mary Huntsinger. So, now to the future:

The talk by Margaret McCarthy on Nov. 11 should prove to be a winner. Do try to join us; you won’t be sorry.

The Holiday Party returns to the Gold Nugget Museum on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m. Do bring something to snack on; we generally need more savorys than desserts. The Paper Arts group, led by Laurie Baker, organizes this event and runs the drinks table. Bring a few dollar bills.

We also collect unwrapped books for children, ages 1 through high school, to be donated locally. Kelley Conner will make sure they have good homes.

Soup Supper on Tuesday, Jan. 13. Could you volunteer to make one soup? We provide tested and approved recipes (yum) for Brazilian Black Bean and Sausage Soup, Meatball Minestrone Soup, and Broccoli Cheese Soup. Just contact Carole Chumbler.

Other news: The annual fundraising letter will arrive on your doorsteps in February, giving you time to recover from the holidays and before you start worrying about April 15. What a good idea!

This letter, asking for money for a variety of AAUW-related projects, replaces several fundraisers, so be grateful. You just have to write a check or two instead of running a rummage sale or working at the Chocolate Festival.

I’ll be attending the annual AAUW Funds Lunch in San Jose on Nov. 2. This lunch celebrates our AAUW fellows, the women who receive grants provided by all AAUW members, for graduate work. Hearing from these women always brings tears to my eyes; they prove, yet again, that AAUW does good work.

- With this issue we begin a series of interviews with our four remaining charter members—those who joined the Paradise branch in April, 1980. Marygrace Colby helped with the interviews.

*Carol Holzgrafe, Facilitator*

### Tech Trek

We have reserved space for three Paradise/Magalia girls to attend Tech Trek at UC Davis next July; we will contact local schools in January. Donations are happily accepted.

Other Tech Trek news: if you want to see what affect these science/math camps for girls have had over the past 17 years, check out the new survey of girls (2006-2009). You will find both the report summary (two pages) and the complete report under ACTIVITIES on the AAUW Paradise website

Marygrace: 873-6252 or [mgcolby@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mgcolby@sbcglobal.net)

### Your Ideas Needed

Our AAUW interest group called Share the Fun needs ideas for places to visit and events to attend. Last year we took in a lecture at the Snow Goose Festival, an art show opening in Orland, a Chico Cemetery tour, a visit to UC Davis Tech Trek Camp, and a special quilt show at the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento. These jaunts are a great way to learn about and enjoy our local community and also to get to know other AAUW members.

Please contact me with your ideas for future outings.

*Carole Chumbler*



**Marsha Hamilton, AAUW member since 1952!**

Marcia Hamilton is an adventurer, which might surprise her many friends. Or not. Perhaps “adventurous” is the better word.

Born 92 years ago in Minnesota, her young life was beset with tragedy and luck: her mother died when she was 8, an event which sent Marcia to relatives in St. Paul until she went away to the highly esteemed Carleton College—paid for by her great uncle; that’s the lucky part. Her mother was a Carleton alumna too, quite rare for the times.

Marcia chose liberal arts since she always liked literature and grammar. The world can always use liberal arts majors.

During college she spent a summer as an Indian Girl in the dining room at Glacier National Park. “I had never seen a mountain; they were just beautiful.” Marcia made lifelong friends there, a habit she has continued throughout her life, being a friendly and engaging sort of person.

Because she had no real home in Minnesota, Marcia felt free to head for California after graduation in 1944. The train ride with three friends was another adventure. “We slept two to a bunk.” The quartet went first to Los Angeles to work, Marcia in Bullock’s buyers’ training course. “You had to be a college graduate to work there,” she said.

“We went to Lake Tahoe for the summer and someone said, ‘Let’s go to San Francisco!’ We were young,” Marcia said.

The four friends worked at an advertising agency and

lived in Pacific Heights with a view of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, and ships returning from the war.

It was then that Marcia met her future husband Stan on a blind date, just after he had been discharged from the Navy.

They married in Santa Rosa and stayed, where their two daughters, Lynn and Jan, were born; Stan joined Hills Brothers Coffee Company.

Marcia first connected with AAUW in 1952 and later always looked for a branch to join whenever they moved to a new city, which they often did while Stan worked for Hills Brothers.

Later on, before they were ready to retire, Hills Brothers was sold and Stan was out of a job. He tried Real Estate and Marcia went to secretarial school and worked in the American Lung Association’s Marin office.

“Whenever I applied for a job, I got the job,” she said, “in part because I had an education.”

Stan wasn’t thrilled with Real Estate so they looked for something they could do together. Fate intervened in 1979 and brought them to Paradise when they heard of a Hallmark store opening.

“I’d never heard of Paradise,” she said. “It was a brand new adventure; we fell in love with Paradise.”

They ran, but didn’t own, the Hallmark store, which had a large gift section and also sold office supplies. “We built it up over 18 years, to 14 employees.”

Marcia and Stan had traveled to Europe while he was with Hills Brothers, then to Seattle and Dallas gift shows with Hallmark. When they retired—after 18 years with the store—they began traveling in earnest.

Marcia and Stan moved to Feather Canyon Retirement Residences six years ago, where they organized couples’ bridge—that being one of Marcia’s passions, along with reading. It serves as an excellent place to find new friends.

“Part of AAUW is making friends,” she said.

Marcia keeps in touch with her five grandchildren through the computer, another new adventure.

Marcia’s thoughts about AAUW: “I hope it keeps going.”

Amen to that.

*Carol Holzgrafe, Facilitator*

## 🌸 Membership:

Nancy Wirtz-Lunde has joined our branch. Please add this information to your directory: 2003 Hillpark Lane, Paradise, 872-5754, [nancy.wirtzlunde@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.wirtzlunde@gmail.com)

Nancy has joined the Gourmet Group and has offered to drive to Nevada City for the holiday outing on Dec. 14, a Share the Fun event. Welcome, Nancy.

*Carol Holzgrafe, Facilitator*

## 🌸 Public Policy for September

Word from AAUW National says that the U.S. Supreme Court has on its docket this term quite a few cases that will affect the rights of women and girls across the country. Access to contraception, freedom from pregnancy discrimination, and voting rights, among others, all hang in the balance.

Part of AAUW's mandate is to educate its members (that's us) about these events, and to represent us before the legislative bodies considering their impact.

AAUW California employs a legislative consultant (a good lobbyist) to ensure that the Legislature knows AAUW's stand on bills that matter to its members.

You can discover which bills AAUW CA has studied and made a priority (whether supporting or opposing) and follow bills that interest you from the AAUW CA website ([www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org)) then click on "Public Policy" on the left.

**The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)** works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. Resources range from community outreach programs to backing of major cases.

Quite a few cases LAF has supported involve California universities, making the Fund a matter of high interest for our members. You can find more information on public policy and LAF on the National website too: [www.aauw.org/](http://www.aauw.org/) Check it out for some exciting reading.

General information about AAUW CA can be found in the new State Directory that you can download from the state website. It's handy to have.

Member Login Information: Any time you are asked to log in: User ID is always "member" and Password is always "aauwca".

Resources for many public policy related subjects can be found at [www.aauw.org/resources](http://www.aauw.org/resources).

*Carol Holzgrafe, Public Policy Chair*

## 🌸 Upcoming Events

Nov. 11, Margaret McCarthy on life in USAID

Dec. 9, Holiday Party

Jan. 13, Soup Supper

Jan. 31, Interbranch Council (IBC) lunch

May 30, Spring brunch

June 18–21, **2015 National Convention**, San Diego.

## 🌸 Interest Group Dates

Please take pictures of your meeting and send them to Marygrace Colby. She will add them to the current scrapbook, memorializing what we do.

**Bridge Babes** Dates TBA, 1:30 p.m. Gail Prince, 877-0554.

**Bridge Group I** 1st Friday, 1:00 p.m. Lynn Eads, 877-2565.

**Bridge Group II** 3rd Friday, 1:00 p.m. Lynn Eads, 877-2565.

**Intermediate Bridge** Dates TBA, 1:00 p.m. Karen Hilleman, 873-2241.

**Evening Book Group** Date and book TBA. Call Mary Johnson, 877-3906, or Dianne Lorenz, 872-8967, for date and location.

**Evening Couples Book Group** Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30. *Nemesis* by Phillip Roth. Contact Mary Johnson, 877-3906

**Gourmet** Dates TBA. Karen Hilleman, 873-2241.

**Gourmet Group** (for couples/partners) Dates TBA, 6:00 p.m. Ronda Hoffman, 872-3031

**Morning Book Group** 4th Thursday, 10:00 a.m.; new members are welcome. Connie Ferrell, 873-0725.

**Out to Lunch** TBA.

**Paper Arts** Dates TBA. Laurie Baker, 872-1452.

**Pot Luck Group** 2nd Sundays. Marilyn Eldridge, 873-1029.

**Share the Fun** All members and friends are welcome. Stay tuned for unique events. Carole Chumbler, 877-5635.

**Wine and Whine** Thursday, Nov. 20, 5:30 PM, The Wine Room, Paradise. Carol Holzgrafe 873-6906.

*Email addresses for all contacts are in the Branch Directory.*



## Women's History Book Fund

Each year as part of our March Women's History month, we purchase and donate books on women's history to our local school libraries. Last year, we were able to donate many books, such as Bylines: A Photobiography of Nellie Bly, The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle, and Women of Steel and Stone: 22 Inspirational Architects, Engineers, and Landscape Designers.

To continue this tradition, you can honor a past or present member of AAUW. You can also give a donation to honor someone you value.

Please make your check out to AAUW Paradise Branch, place it in an envelope with your complete the donation information.

This donation is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

This donation is to honor \_\_\_\_\_

Please include your contact information and relationship if you would like us to acknowledge your donation to someone.

Donations can be mailed with this slip to:

AAUW Paradise Branch, P.O. Box, 1585, Paradise, CA 95967-1585



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 **Dramatis Personae**

Facilitator	Carol Holzgrafe
Financial Officer	Susanne Griffin
Secretary	Madeleine Caton
Director (Membership)	Mary Huntsinger
AAUW Funds/LAF	Lani McManus
Public Policy	Carol Holzgrafe
Publicity	Jan Britton
Tech Trek	<i>Open</i>
Transportation	Marygrace Colby
Sunshine	Laurie Baker
Webmaster	Alex Lorenz
Editor (under protest)	Jim Holzgrafe

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