



SIMI VALLEY (CA)
BRANCH

The Big Wind email

Volume 49.2

Nov/Dec 2015

2015-2016

Simi Valley Branch Leadership Team

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Judy Galvin

ammom4299@aol.com

The Big Wind is a bimonthly newsletter. Articles should be sent to Judy Galvin by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

December Social Event



Sunday, December 13 5:30 PM

Appetizer Pot Luck in the Downstairs Hospitality Room

Please bring a hearty appetizer to share.

Cost is \$23 for tickets and room fee.

Tickets are limited so please make your reservation early-
no later than **November 10th.**

Call Betsy Dulcich to reserve your spot 527-6445

Let her know if you are interested in transportation

Poinsettia Pick up Date



*Plants may be picked up on Saturday,
December 5 from 11- 1 at Betsy Dulcich's home ~
5366 Seneca Place.*

*Call Virginia Seaton if you have questions
583-2738*

Chili Cook-Off

A beautiful day with lively music, was enjoyed at the Third Annual AAUW Chili Cook-Off on October 11 at the home of Lorraine and Don Erickson.

Congratulations to Kathy Fried for making the winning chili!

An intimate gathering of 27 members and friends helped to raise almost \$500 for the scholarship fund.

Thank you to our hosts and to Lorraine and Maureen for chairing the event.

Kathy's New Chili Recipe

Serves 10-12

- 1-2 medium onions chopped. (I used dehydrated chopped onion-3 Tablespoons)
- 2 Lbs lean ground beef browned and drained
- 2 garlic cloves, minced fine, or 3/4 tsp. Garlic powder
- 1 cup finely diced red pepper.
- 2 14 1/2 oz. cans diced tomatoes
- 2 15 oz. cans seasoned pinto beans.
- 2 15 oz. cans kidney beans drained
- 1 15oz.can of white beans.
- 1 12 oz. can of tomato sauce
- 1 tsp. Ground cumin.
- 1/2 Teaspoon pepper
- 2 1/4teaspoon seasoned salt.
- 1 tablespoon, or more chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon basil
- 1 Teaspoon Trader Joes 21 seasoning salute
- 1/4 cup brown sugar

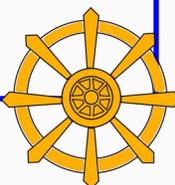
1. Combine all ingredients in 6 quart crockpot
2. Cover and cook on low 8- 9 hours or high 5-6 hours.
Stir occasionally.

Note: only drain kidney and white beans not seasoned pintos



In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

Next Steering Committee Meeting
Monday, January 11 10 am
At Betsy's home



The 2015 legislative year began slowly in January but soon heated up in part due to our participation in a new, exciting coalition – Stronger California Advocates Network. This coalition, organized by the Women’s Policy Institute, was made up of two dozen groups, some with established Capitol credentials and many new to advocacy but with significant experience in working with communities affected by the four pillars of the California women’s economic agenda. Our agenda had four established pillars under which two dozen bills on which we advocated as a coalition were categorized.

Pillar One – Fair Pay and Job Opportunities

Pillar Two – Access to Childcare

Pillar Three – Family Friendly Workplace

Pillar Four – Eradicating Poverty

AAUW California’s agenda primarily focused on Pillar One – Fair Pay and Job Opportunities, and supported many of the Stronger California bills with a few non-coalition bills added, but we were very deliberate that our focus was Fair Pay. We sponsored Assembly Concurrent Resolution 50 (Gonzalez) to bring attention to Equal Pay Day, and cosponsored with the California Employment Lawyers Association a bill on closing the gender wage gap, that if the Governor had signed the bill, would have made California first in the nation to have a bill prohibiting employers from using prior salary history to establish new pay. Unfortunately AB 1017 (Campos) was vetoed, along with another progressive bill to attack the gender wage gap, AB 1354 (Dodd) requiring state contractors to have plans in place for fighting gender pay inequities.

The vetoes occurred on the last day the Governor could act, October 11th, by citing our biggest victory of the year, Senate Bill 358 (Jackson), which he signed, as the reason. SB 358 was a sorely needed update to California’s Fair Pay Act. Not only does it prohibit retaliation for disclosing wages amongst coworkers, but closes a huge loophole used by employers when employees sued for wage discrimination based on gender. This was a tremendous victory that received national attention, the importance of which should not be discounted amidst our disappointment with the vetoes; but we know from the AAUW Analysis of Gender Pay Laws by State that multiple avenues of addressing this problem are needed. This is particularly true after the recent disappointing news from the Census that the gender pay gap has barely budged in the last decade.

We’ll be back. Perhaps not in 2016 but sooner rather than later. We’ll take time to marshal our forces and stock our ammunition (data). Part of what would be helpful in the fight are YOUR STORIES. In talking with people about the bill, there was an amazing number who’d either personally been affected or knew someone who had been disadvantaged by having to disclose their prior salary history in order to apply for a job. It can vary from failure to get an interview because your credentials were assessed using your low salary as a proxy, and by that measure you were deemed unqualified and therefore not worthy of an interview. It could be you were paid below the established range, or less than a colleague because the company policy was to pay prior salary plus x% only. Submit your stories to legislativeadvocate@aauw-ca.org. Please include your contact information and if you’d be willing to be public with your story.

Meanwhile, we hope to have our Fair Pay poster person, Aileen Rizo-Acosta, at our 2016 California meeting to talk about the impact of using prior salary history to establish new wages. Aileen and her family traveled to Sacramento from Fresno dozens of times to persuasively testify on both SB 358 and AB 1017 by relating her compelling story. Read about her story [here](#) and follow her on Facebook . Her lawsuit against her employer for paying her \$20,000 below a less qualified male colleague because of her prior salary should be heard early in 2016, and we’ll make sure to update you.

See our entire legislative agenda and results [here](#). Please “like” us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter using [@aauwcalobbyist](#) and [@aauw_ca](#).

The new legislative year (2nd year of a two year session) will begin January 4, 2016. The website will be updated with our new agenda after the March Public Policy Committee. Thanks to your support, especially our Two-Minute Activists, we are able to move our agenda forward.

AAUW Fund Fall Luncheon.

On October 18, Bakula Maniar and I, Judy Pfeil, represented AAUW Simi Valley at the Southern California AAUW Fund Fall Luncheon. The AAUW Fund Luncheons honor the college women from each region who win national and international fellowships, career development grants and community action grants, funded by monies local branches contribute to national funds. I highly recommend that you attend one of these luncheons. You will be touched and inspired by the young women who win these grants and fellowships, and proud that you belong to an organization that truly empowers young women at the beginning of their careers.

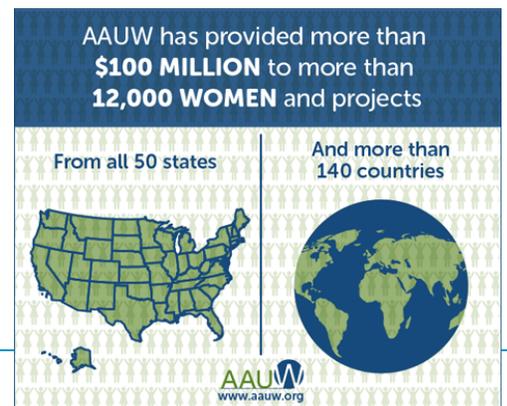
Eleven California graduate students earned American Fellowships. These fellowships are awarded to women pursuing full-time graduate study to complete dissertations, conduct full-time postdoctoral research, or prepare research for publication. Awards range from \$6,000-\$30,000. Three graduate students representing UC Irvine, CSU Fullerton and USC spoke to us about their research. One of the students who talked told about the Persian notions of hospitality reflected in classic English literature. We were also fascinated by the USC electrical engineering student who uses electrical engineering concepts to study the process of dynamic decision-making in the health fields.

An Egyptian student at San Francisco State University won an International Fellowship to study cell and molecular biology, specifically the effect of chronic stress on breast cancer. International awards range from \$18,000 – \$30,000.

Seven California women earned Career Development Grants. These grants are for women pursuing a certificate or degree to advance their careers, change careers, or reenter the workforce and whose bachelor's degrees were received at least five years before the award period. Women can earn grants ranging from \$2,000 –\$12,000. Typically, these women are working on professional masters degrees. . One Antioch student spoke about how her MA in Public Administration will help with her work at a women's homeless shelter on Skid Row. Another woman, studying for an MA in Communications online from Johns Hopkins, spoke about how her degree will help her work in marketing and communications for Volunteers of America.

Finally, we heard from a young UCLA undergraduate who won a scholarship to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) the summer before she transferred to UCLA. Over 1,000 young women student leaders gather at the University of Maryland for a week each year to choose from over 50 workshops and create a lasting leadership support network.

We encourage you to attend next year's luncheon. It is inspiring to hear the stories of these young women about their research, their work, and their dreams. If you know of young women who should apply for one of these fellowships, all information is posted on the AAUW national website at www.aauw.org.



INTEREST GROUPS CORNER

GREAT DECISIONS

Meet and discuss world topics and foreign policy.

*Thursday, November 19 10-noon
Karen Cunningham's 585 Sonata Way Unit A
Gate code #5523
Topic: Brazil: A Metamorphosis*

\$30 due at the November meeting
to buy next year's materials

Karen Cunningham

527-3987

443-6251 cell



BREAKFAST GROUP

**COME JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN
AND FRIVOLITY!!**

2ND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH,

November 14

First Street Café

Hostess: Paula Lightfoot

December 12

Maria's (next to Big Lots)

Hostess: Virginia Seaton

If you plan to attend, please
RSVP to Hostess



CANASTA

Every Wednesday, 1-3:30 P.M.

Member's Homes

Canasta has been great fun playing at different member's homes. If you want to play or wish to learn how to play, please contact:

Ruth Dempsey, 501-5874.



BRIDGE

1st through 4th Wed of the month

9:30—1:30

Sunrise Assisted Living

190 Tierra Rejada SV

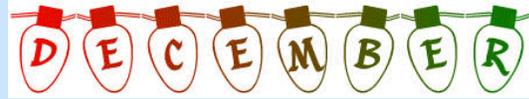
Penny Neugroschl, 526-1570

***AAUW advances equity for
women and girls through ad-
vocacy, education, and
research.***

Birthdays to Celebrate



1 Mary Martin
10 Pat Armstrong
17 Nancy Miller
18 Lorraine Erickson
21 Leslie Visser-Dumont



1 Ruth Dempsey
11 Karla Pelletier
12 Ruth Jacobs
31 Lana Fricke

Welcoming new members~

Carol Esser~

I was born in Illinois, but raised in North Miami, Florida. My BS was in Math from Univ. of Michigan in Ann Arbor and my MS is also in Math from Univ. of Illinois. I married Nick in 1970 and we lived in Dayton, Ohio and Pasadena before moving to Simi Valley in 1980. Our two daughters, Suzi and Valerie, were born in Pasadena. My career was as a business applications programmer generally in manufacturing areas. After moving to Simi, I became a stay at home Mom and then a substitute teacher. When the girls were in elementary school, I did volunteer work at the Hollow Hills library, before trying Substitute Teaching as a way to have their hours and holidays. I got a teaching credential from CLU in TO and then taught math for a semester in the west valley before settling in to substitute for about 25 years.

My husband, Nick, was an electronics engineer. He worked for Micom in Chatsworth and later Simi and some smaller companies in the Westlake, Thousand Oaks, and Newbury Park areas. He retired early (at 57) because his father had died of early onset Alzheimer's disease at 58 and we wanted him to have some time to really enjoy life after work.

Here in Simi we've been active in our church - Our Saviour, now Shepherd of the Valley - since we've lived here. We also joined Happy Squares in 1988 and have square danced together since. Nick joined Kiwanis shortly after he retired and has been very active with Kiwanis activities. I help and enjoy the Kiwanis activities and events that I consider fun.

This summer I retired from subbing again. I'm hoping that AAUW will provide social opportunities to help me stay connected with our community and provide ways to help youth succeed better in math and science.

Broad Shoulders:

Marilyn Burnham is recovering after surgery at Thousand Oaks Health Care,
93 W Avenida de las Arboles, TO phone 492-2444.



**OWLS
10:00 A.M**

The named member reviews the book and hosts the group.

Nov. 17 *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline
Nancy Miller

Dec. 15 *The Necklace* by Cheryl Jarvis
Mary Martin

New faces are welcome. Paula Lightfoot 522-4040 or pmbrownL@yahoo.com
Or Roberta Leap 527-0670 robertaleap@sbcglobal.net



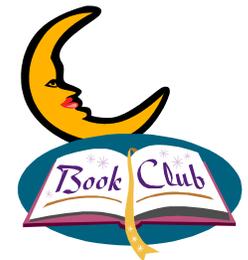
**EVENING BOOK GROUP
7:30 PM**

November 17 *Dante's Wood* by Lynne Raimondo
Hostess: Betsy Dulcich Reviewer: Judy Galvin

December 15 *Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George
Hostess: Maureen Everakes Reviewer: Lorraine Erickson

New members are always welcome. Contact Judy Galvin 527-6349, ammom4299@aol.com

Please note we are meeting on the 3rd Tuesday for Nov and Dec.



*Jewish Women's Circle Presents
Art and Soul*



Wed., Nov. 18 - PAINTING & DRAWING: THE INNER EYE OF THE ARTIST

What is art? What endows a painting with that magical power to convey a dimension of beauty and meaning that the object or scene it represents does not reveal to us on its own? Is it only artists who have access to that magic, or can we all learn to discover it? How do we transform our everyday lives into a work of art?

Contact infor@chabadsimi.org 577-0573

(paid advertisement)

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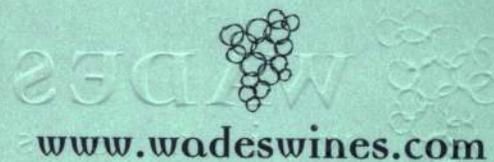
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tel. 818.597.wine
fax. 818.597.9471
paul@wadeswines.com

online store:

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simi valley, CA 93065
tel. 805.522.4445
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Members and their immediate families may advertise their business or personal endeavors at the rate of \$6/issue or \$25/year. Non-member rate is \$12/issue or \$50/year for 5 issues.

Mary Martin, 527-0760

fmmartin7@sbcglobal.net