



# Clayton AAUW December 2011 e-news

## AAUW Holiday Party

Meet and greet and eat!

For members and partners

Sunday, December 4, 5:30 p.m. at the home of



**JoAnn Caspar, 945 Oak Street, Clayton**

### **Join the fun and festivities at the AAUW Clayton Branch Party**

Please contribute \$5 a person for drinks and paper goods.

Bring one non-perishable canned or packaged food for donation to the food bank bin on site. Bring a while elephant wrapped gift for a fun gift exchange. Bring an appetizer or a dessert to share.



**AAUW Celebrates:** We celebrated the 100th anniversary of California's Women's suffrage, passage of the 19th amendment, and AAUW's 130 birthday on November 5.

It was a exhilarating experience. On November 5th with over 200 women we saw the celebration on film which was done by women across America for the rights they now have. We owe the women of the 1800's for standing up and fighting so we could vote, own property, run for office and much more.

In attendance were Congress member George Miller, (pictured with Roseann Krane and Carol Rowley San Ramon City Council Member, Assembly member Joan Buchanon, and many others. This was an important event. Thanks to the women of the past we now have many rights and freedoms. **Thanks to Pat Foster you can view the photos, <http://www.aauw-daw.org/nov5/SenecaFalls.jpg>**

**The American Association of University Women would like to pause this holiday to give thanks for the many opportunities and advancements for women and girls during 2011. Although there is no way for us to list all of the advances for women and girls that we have seen this year, here are just a few to reflect upon and give thanks:**

We're thankful for AAUW's new research report, *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School*, the most comprehensive, nationally representative report conducted on sexual harassment in middle and high schools in a decade. The report has been featured in articles in *The Associated Press*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post* On Parenting blog, *Education Week*, *Capitol Hill Blue*, and thousands of other press outlets.

We're thankful that the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced that three women, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberian activist Leymah Gbowee and Yemeni opposition leader Tawakkul Karman, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their courageous contributions to peace, democracy, and international women's rights.

We're thankful that women broke barriers around the world, with women elected to lead Australia, Brazil, and Thailand for the first time. We're thankful that for the first time in history, the president's top legal team is entirely composed of women.

We are thankful for the U.S. Women's Soccer National Team finishing as runners up in the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup, providing American sports fans one with one of the most thrilling and memorable sports event – male or female – of the year.

We're thankful that the Internal Revenue Service ruled that breast pumps may be purchased with money from pretax flexible spending accounts or, for women without such accounts, a tax deduction for the pump.

We're thankful for a successful Capitol Hill Lobby Day during AAUW's national convention. Over 600 AAUW members lobbied members of Congress in one day. Their efforts and those of the AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps and AAUW Action Network e-advocates (you!) resulted in 50 additional co-sponsors for the Campus SaVE Act (House 38; Senate 12) and 26 more cosponsors for the National Women's History Museum Act (House 25; Senate 1).

We're thankful for Marcia Anderson, who was appointed as the Army's first African-American female two-star general. We're thankful that President Barack Obama signed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, championed by First Lady Michelle Obama, which ensures all children will have healthy food in schools.

We're thankful for the repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy which banned lesbian and gay Americans from openly serving in the nation's armed forces.

We are thankful that the U.S. hosted the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation's Women and the Economy Summit in San Francisco, where participants adopted the San Francisco Declaration on Women and the Economy. We are thankful for the creation of AAUW's Voices Project, which has allowed the voices of AAUW members throughout the nation to educate the public, spark discussion, and influence the debate through op eds and letters to the editor.

We are thankful for the \$23,500 Cy Pres awarded to AAUW to continue our mission to advance equity for women and girls, which resulted from a settlement in the class action lawsuit against Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation for the thousands of saleswomen who claimed gender discrimination based on pay, promotion, and pregnancy.

We're thankful that the Department of Justice announced the creation of the Violence Against Women Federal and Tribal Prosecution Task Force in response to the unacceptable rates of violence against women and children in Indian tribal communities.

We're thankful that Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) was appointed chair of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and is the first woman to hold the distinguished position. She also happens to be the only woman on the deficit reduction "super committee," which she co-chairs. We're thankful that the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and Labor announced a new Human Trafficking Enhanced Enforcement Initiative to streamline the investigations and prosecutions of federal human trafficking offenses.

We're thankful for the representatives from AAUW who joined more than 250 women from around the world for the 55th U.N. Commission on the Status of Women. The CSW's theme of access and participation for women and girls' education and training in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics was greatly informed by AAUW's recent *Why*

We're thankful that 85 nations, including the United States, reaffirmed their commitment to ending violence against LGBT individuals. We're thankful that AAUW joined coalition partners on stage during the 'Stand Up for Women's Health Rally' on the National Mall. Members of Congress, activists, and cancer survivors spoke to the crowd of thousands about the direct threat funding cuts posed to women's health programs.

We're thankful that the U.S. Agency for International Development established a new Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. We're thankful for Lauren Hodge, Naomi Shah, and Shree Bose, the U.S. girls who won the top awards at Google's inaugural science fair in all three age groups. They were congratulated by President Obama, who invited them to the Oval Office.

We're thankful that the Department of Health and Human Services adopted recommendations from the Institute of Medicine that preventive care coverage for women under the new health care law includes birth control without patient copay or deductible. We're thankful that on the 17th anniversary of the passage of the Violence Against Women Act, Vice President Biden called for renewed efforts to prevent dating violence and sexual assault on teens and college students.

We're thankful that President Obama told the United Nations General Assembly to make sure that the safety, economic security, and civil rights of women and girls are not overlooked. The President challenged world leaders to include women at every level of society.

We're thankful that the American Federation of Teachers used statistics from four AAUW research reports to make the case for promoting gender diversity among college and university faculty. We're thankful that New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, which went into effect in September, reflects a meaningful effort to reduce bullying in schools.

We're thankful that new federal regulations went into effect ensuring hospital visitation rights for patients' partners or spouses prohibit hospitals from denying visitors' entry based on gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, or disability. We're thankful for Kamala Harris, who shattered glass ceilings in California by becoming the state's first female attorney general, and also the state's first African American and Indian American attorney general.

We're thankful for enthusiastic recognition of Equal Pay Day 2011, including the Paycheck Fairness Act reintroduced by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD); AAUW's successful Capitol Hill event New Voices for Pay Equity; publication of AAUW's new guide, The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap; more than 20 AAUW Voices Project op-eds published on fair pay; AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman's op-ed published in the Huffington Post; and AAUW's first ever fair pay flash mob on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

We're thankful for Mississippi voters, who rejected Issue 26, a measure that would have effectively banned all abortions and severely limited access to in-vitro fertilization, birth control, and other medical procedures and care, by more than 58 percent of voters.

We're thankful for our stalwart allies on Capitol Hill, including Senator Mikulski and Representative DeLauro who are working together to develop legislation that would address the Supreme Court's problematic decision in Wal-Mart v. Dukes. We're thankful for the AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps, whose persistent and thoughtful volunteer advocacy every year helps educate lawmakers and hold them accountable. This year, Lobby Corps members made over 1,400 visits to Senate and House offices reinforcing AAUW's message and garnering many cosponsors on key legislation.

We're thankful for women like Edith Arana, who spoke at AAUW's national convention about her involvement in the class action sex discrimination lawsuit against Wal-Mart. We're thankful for AAUW members and supporters who generously give of their time, talent, and treasures to help women advance their educations and develop their leadership skills.

And of course, we're thankful for you, the AAUW Action Network, for your enthusiastic advocacy to break through educational and economic barriers to ensure that all women have a fair chance. Your thousands of letters and phone calls to members of Congress is a clarion call for the rights of women and girls everywhere.

**From all of us at AAUW, best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday and a joyful beginning to your holiday season.**

## ELLEN TAUSCHER

It was the Danville Alamo AAUW Membership Brunch in September, 2000. The branch members were excited about hearing the speaker, Ellen Tauscher, who always brought in a large number to listen. It was a record-breaking crowd of 100 members who came to the brunch that year. She represented the Danville area in the US House of Representatives for the 10<sup>th</sup> District of California. A resident of our area, she was close to our hearts.



As Tauscher celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday this month on November 15, she had achieved quite a resume. She graduated from Seton Hall University in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education. By age 25 she became a member of the New York Stock Exchange, from 1979 to 1983. She was also an officer of the American Stock Exchange.

In 1989 she became a California resident and had a daughter, Katherine. While raising her daughter, she started the first national research service to help parents with background checks of childcare workers. She published, "The Childcare Sourcebook," and also began a foundation in her name that provided funds for computers and Internet access in elementary schools.

Ms. Tauscher next became active as a fundraiser for the Democratic Party and then chaired Diane Feinstein's 1992 successful Senate campaign. In 1996, she declared herself a candidate against two-term Republican Bill Baker in the 10<sup>th</sup> District for the US House of Representatives in a Republican district. She won by a narrow margin. Before the 2000 census, her district included Livermore, Danville, San Ramon, Diablo and Alamo. After the redistricting, her boundaries included Alamo, Walnut Creek, Lamorinda area, Antioch, Vacaville, Dixon, Suisun City, Livermore and others. She became quite a busy member of Congress from 1997-2009.

During her first years in Congress, Tauscher was the only member to have two national laboratories, Lawrence Livermore and Sandia California, in her district. Her district also included Camp Parks Army Reserve and Travis Air Force Base. While in Congress, she chaired the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces in 2007. She has been a Senior Advisor to President Obama and Secretary of State for Arms Control Nonproliferation and Disarmament.

She was well qualified for the next appointment. In March 2009, she announced she had accepted the position of Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. She was approved overwhelmingly by the US Senate on June 25, 2009. She is working under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. On that same day, she married retired airline pilot, widower Jim Cieslak from Atlanta, Georgia.

In 2010, Ellen Tauscher was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus. While she had chemotherapy, radiation and the removal of her esophagus, her husband Jim was very supportive during her recovery. We are pleased that she had been declared cancer free.

Her goal is to eradicate the world of nuclear weapons. We were proud to have had a very important woman as a neighbor.

Woman's History Chair

## The California State Legislature

is divided into two entities or “houses” — the Assembly and the Senate. The leader of the Assembly is called Speaker and the leader of the Senate is called the President pro tem. There are 80 assembly members and 40 senate members. Assembly members serve for two years and senators four years, unless re-elected.

After bills are checked for legality, they go to one or the other house and are sent into committees where they can be amended. Then the bills go to the full houses for a vote. A simple majority is needed to pass — 41 out of 80 for the Assembly and 21 out of 40 for the Senate. They are then sent to the Governor who can choose to sign it, veto it, or let it become law without his or her signature.

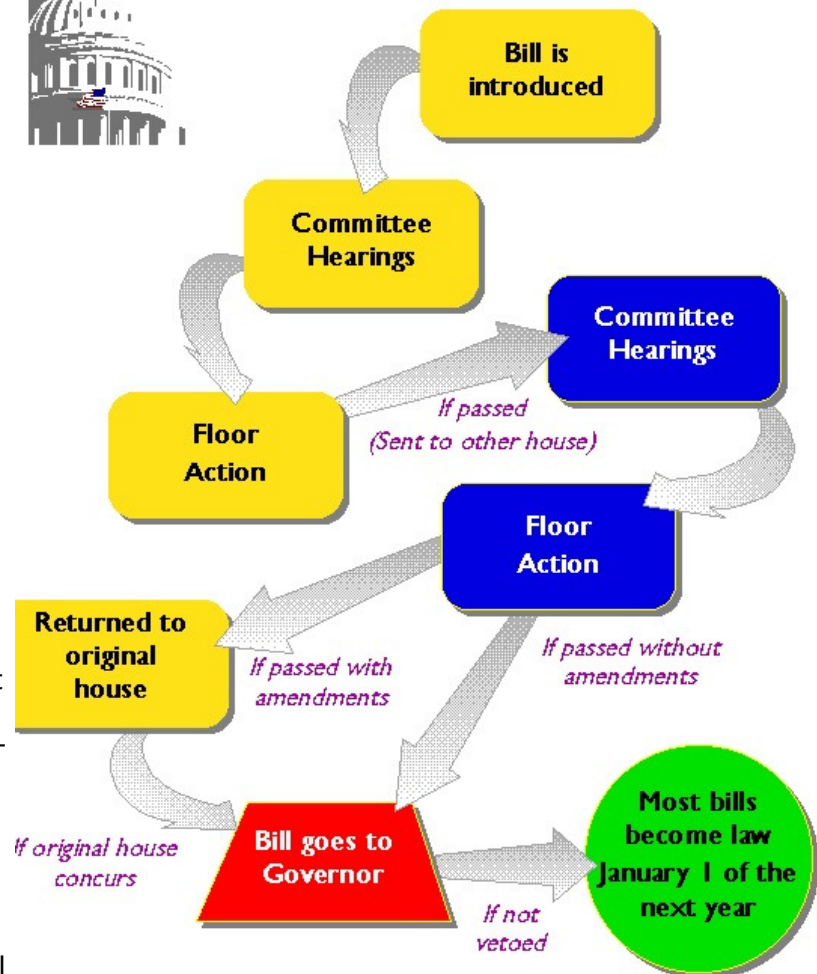
A bill automatically becomes law if the Governor signs it or lets it go without a veto. Senate Concurrent Resolutions (SCR) and Assembly Concurrent Resolutions (ACR) convey general concern and opinions of the California Legislature to the federal government. Over 900 bills passed in the legislature this year, and the Governor has been swamped the last few weeks. You can influence this process by leaving messages or going to Sacramento to visit your representatives or ask to testify at a hearing.

One additional possibility is that the legislature can decide to roll a bill over and consider it the following year. When a bill doesn't pass, at times people decide to go to the initiative process and collect signatures to place an issue on the ballot. Constitutional Initiatives need 80 percent, 615 signatures, and other initiatives need 50 percent, or 760 signatures. Next time, I'll list some web sites to have closer access to the system.

**Joan Conley, Public Policy**



## How a Bill Becomes a Law



**Diablo Women's Chorale's 69th annual holiday concert** will be a delightful choral celebration featuring traditional seasonal favorites, jazz and novelty tunes performed with our ensemble musicians.

Mary Sorenson directs and Stephen Evans accompanies a program to infuse young and old with the holiday spirit. Special guests include the Civic Arts Education Cello Choir led by Stephen Evans. Audience sing-alongs and our traditional after concert reception make this a fun event for the whole family.

**Join us on Saturday, December 10th at 3 p.m. at our lovely new venue, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 399 Wiget Lane in Walnut Creek, south of Shadelands.** Tickets \$15, students \$10, available at the door, from a DWC member, or online at

<http://diablowomenschorale.org/> For a fun preview of the concert program, check our website or this youtube link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77zk8QfCifA>

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP FOR COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS:** The holiday season is emotionally stressful attempting to cope during this period while struggling with the memories of happy times celebrated with our lost loved ones. To provide an opportunity for those who have lost spouses and other family members and friends to join together, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church is offering a Peer Support Group Meeting to be held at the Grace House of St. Timothy's, 1550 Diablo Road, Danville on Dec. 14th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please let them know you will be joining them by calling Bea Pussman at the Church office (925) 837-4993 or send an e-mail to: parish@SaintTimothysDanville.org no later than Dec. 7th.

**SAVE THE DATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING: What Is It? How Can You Make a Difference? When: Sunday January 29, 2-4 pm**

Where: Lafayette Libray and Learning Center

Sponsored by: AAUW Contra Costa Interbranch Council

Come and hear from three government and non-profit sector experts from our area : Jennifer Alderete, special agent with Homeland Securities Investigations, Cindy Liou, staff attorney with Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach , and Ms. Caritas Foster with the Holy Family Sisters organization. They will discuss the scope of the problem (nationally and locally), suggest ways to combat human trafficking, and inform attendees of non-profit and government resources. This program advances education and advocates effective action that can be taken on these issues by AAUW members and the local community.

SAN RAMON AAUW CELEBRATES WOMEN IN FILM AT FRONT ROW

THEATER, JANUARY 21, 2012

CONTACT: Jane Young, (925) 648-3267, netinterj@aol.com

Showing of "Temple Grandin" To Benefit Women's Education, Research

The San Ramon Branch of the American Association of University Women presents its third annual Celebration of Women in Film on Saturday evening, January 21, 2012, with a showing and discussion of the HBO film Temple Grandin. Proceeds from the event, which will be held at the Front Row Theater, Dougherty Station Community Center, San Ramon, will go to AAUW funds that support women seeking fellowships and grants to further their education and research.

The winner of 7 Emmys, a Golden Globe and a Peabody Award, Temple Grandin stars Claire Danes in a riveting portrayal of a young woman whose struggles against sexism are compounded by a brain disorder – autism – that is misunderstood to this day. As Grandin has said herself, she sees and experiences life differently, and her differences made her subject to bullying in school and being discounted by most of her teachers.

"If anyone exemplifies our AAUW theme of 'breaking through barriers' it is Temple Grandin," said Janice Colby, chair of the film committee, "because she turned her differences into a gift. This is a film that will appeal to a broad audience. Temple's ordeals and triumphs will make you cry and laugh, feel extremely inspired, and very fortunate."

Today, Temple Grandin is a professor at Colorado State University, renowned for her contributions to animal science, for sweeping changes in the humane treatment of cattle raised for human consumption, and equally for her advocacy for individuals – and their families – who face the challenges of living with autism.

Tickets are \$25, with minimal processing fees for tickets purchased online or mailed, and are tax-deductible. To purchase tickets, call (925) 973-3343 or go to <http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/parks/theater/default.htm>. The Front Row Theater is located at 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the event begins at 7:00 p.m. Seating is limited. Refreshments will be served at the intermission.

**7<sup>th</sup>Annual Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek AAUW**  
***Holiday Home Tour***

**Friday & Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.**

***Visit Five Beautifully Decorated Homes***  
***in Danville, Diablo & Alamo***

**Adults - \$30      Seniors 65+ - \$25**  
**After Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> - \$35      After Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> - \$30**



**for tickets including maps**

Mail check by **December 1<sup>st</sup>** payable to  
**Danville-Alamo-WC AAUW\*** with a self-addressed stamped, business size envelope to:  
AAUW Holiday Home Tour  
P. O. Box 996  
Alamo, CA 94507

Tickets (cash or check only) are also available M-F 9-6 & Sat 9-5 **after November 4<sup>th</sup>** at:  
East Bay Flower Company, 206 Sycamore Valley Road West, in the Danville Livery.

**further information**

*holidayhometour@aauw-daw.org*

Non-perishable food items are being collected at the homes for local food banks.  
Your donations are appreciated.

***Please no children under 12. \*not deductible for tax purposes***

***2011 Light Refreshments, Boutique and Quilt Raffle***

*Proceeds benefit local women scholars and  
middle-school girls attending Tech Trek Science Camps.*

**American Association of University Women**