



Wild Thyme's: All that Glitters

is Not Always Hollywood

An Evening with Sally Van Slyke

Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 7 pm

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill

Please join us for an informative and fun-filled evening as we welcome Sally Van Slyke.

Sally began her "Hollywood" career as a page at Metromedia TV, rising through the ranks to become the station's publicist and eventually on-air field reporter and anchorwoman. Later, as a publicist at a prestigious Hollywood PR firm and then Senior Vice President of Marketing for Universal Pictures, Sally worked alongside such directors as Martin Scorsese, Oliver Stone, Steven Spielberg, Ron Howard and Spike Lee in creating the marketing campaigns for some of the most successful TV series and films of her generation. Among this list are *Dynasty*, *Miami Vice*, *Back To The Future*, *Field of Dreams*, *Fried Green Tomatoes* and *Jaws*.

At the top of her game Sally walked away from Hollywood, relocating to Northern California, where, capitalizing on her expertise in all aspects of event management, Sally owned and operated the award-winning Wild Thyme Catering and Event Management Company and The Thymes Squared Consultants Group for the next eighteen years.

In 2012, she published her first book entitled "Wild Thyme's: Catering to the Egos of the Hollywood Elite." She is currently in final edit on her first novel "Assume the Position" a humorous tale of the local AquaNuts - or as she describes them " the Golden Girls meet up with Janet Evanovich at a Cosmo convention" set for publication in mid- 2018.

A firm believer in giving back to the community, in 2015 Van Slyke was asked by the Executive Director of Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County to take on the role of *Culinary Training Director* for a new and innovative program. In this role, Sally created a curriculum for a "pilot" class of young students designed to teach basic culinary skills preparing them for a starting position in this vast and growing industry. The class was a huge success and was followed by two more in 2016. Sessions four through eight are scheduled to begin this Fall. Sally admits that teaching is the toughest job she has ever taken on and possibly the most rewarding.

Be prepared for an informative and fun-filled evening with Sally. Hear her lively outlook on life and the lessons it has taught her.

Bambi Barker and Sally Figueiredo, Program VPs



PRESIDENTIAL POSTINGS

Autumn is my favorite time of year. As the leaves change color to red, yellow and orange, and the air turns crisp, there is a sense of renewal upon us.

With that sense of renewal, we officially “kicked off” a new year with our Welcome Brunch in Marilyn Thelen’s lovely backyard on September 16 with over 60 members and guests. Our gathering included Tech Trek girls and their families, as well as our NCCWSL representative, Shia Stennis. The Tech Trek girls shared their camp experiences at Sonoma State University and answered questions from the audience. Shia reported on her participation at the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders at the University of Maryland. Thank you to our members who make it possible for these young women to attend such forums.

Members provided reports about upcoming exciting events we have planned for the fall. Our Interest Groups and Standing Committees gave an overview of their activities, fundraising and endeavors for the coming year. We encourage everyone to get involved in these groups and committees. There are plenty of fun activities to participate in and ways to help our committees make a difference in the lives of women and girls. Please feel free to contact our committee and interest group leaders to join in.

Many thanks to our planning committee led by Membership Co-chairs Bea Ball and Elva Valli for organizing our lovely brunch. We extend our appreciation to those who set up, cleaned up and contributed delicious frittatas, fruit, pastries and beverages. A special thank you to Elena Noble for setting out the food so beautifully. And with much gratitude, we thank Marilyn and Jim Thelen for graciously opening up their home for this event once again.

We acknowledge Marlene Maksel, who once again produced the directories (with a soft lavender cover this year) distributed at the brunch. Marlene, thank you for your diligence. If anyone has not received their directory, please contact Bea

or Elva.

We encourage members to participate in a number of fundraisers we are holding this fall. AAUW Fund is selling Kinder’s tickets for \$10.00 a piece which includes a Famous Ball Tip or Grilled Chicken Sandwich and one small drink. These can be redeemed at the Kinder’s Martinez location on Center Ave next to Nob Hill Foods and are valid through January 16, 2018. We encourage you to partake in this fantastic food while supporting a good cause. In November we have two fun fundraisers planned. First, bring out your athletic spirit by forming a team of four or five and join us for a Bowling Blast at Pacheco Bowl on Saturday, November 4 to benefit AAUW Fund and Tech Trek. Then, on Saturday, November 18, put your artistic skills to the test by learning to paint a painting while enjoying good food and drink at Painting With a Twist in Pleasant Hill to benefit Tech Trek. Our major fundraiser for the year will be later next year, A Salute to Spring modeled after A Taste of Fall, to be held on Saturday, May 19 at Cheryl Buscaglia’s home. Marlene DeLaurenti and Janice Walker are working steadfastly to make this a worthwhile opportunity to benefit AAUW Fund, Tech Trek and Local Scholarships. It promises to be an enjoyable evening for sampling great food and wine, participating in a silent auction and raffle and having a great time in the company of good friends.

On Thursday, October 12 at Civic Park Community Center Social Hall in Walnut Creek at 6:30 pm, our Contra Costa County Inter Branch Council is hosting an IBC LEAD event in which California Women Lead and State Assemblywoman Catharine Baker will tell us how to be appointed to a local or state level board, committee or commission. More information is included with this newsletter.

On Sunday, October 29, the annual Northern California AAUW Fund Luncheon will be held at Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville from noon to 3pm. This is a great opportunity to hear from AAUW fellowship grant awardees. We hope to form a contingent of members from our branch to attend. The RSVP deadline is October 16. Registration is available online at <https://eastbayfundluncheon.eventbrite.com> or respond to Fund Co-Chairs Marlene Maksel and Barbara Chambers.

Each of our members bring value to our branch and can contribute in unique ways. We hope to see a good turnout of members this year, enjoying our programs, supporting our funds that provide opportunities and legal support to women and girls, and joining our interest groups and committees. See you soon!

Jennifer and Claudia

INTEREST SECTIONS MEETINGS



****MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, October 4, 10 am, at Sandy Wolfe's. PLEASE let your hostess know you will be attending. We will be discussing *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance. One critic has heralded this book, a memoir, as an "extraordinary testimony to the brokenness of the white working class but also its strengths." In November we will be reading *Glorry Over Everything* by Kathleen Grissom. Plan to join us for all of the discussions.



****IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on Wednesday, October 11, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. The topic will be "How Has Our Vocabulary Changed" ~ remember when "tweet" meant a bird was singing? Or, we had just one phone and didn't worry about a "landline." Join us with your thoughts. We would welcome some new writers! We like oral versions, too.



****LUNCHIN' LADIES** will meet on Tuesday, October 17, 1 pm, at La Sen restaurant in Concord. Please let Marlene know by the 15th if you are interested in lunching then. Also, please tell Marlene if you are interested in this section ~ and if you have an idea for a great restaurant it would be fun for us to try.



****EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, October 23, 7 pm, at Jeanne McGinnis'. Please let your hostess know if you will be attending. We will be discussing *The Silent Sister* by Diane Chamberlain. A woman spends her life believing her older sister died many years before ~ now she finds the sister is alive. The story is about love, loss and sibling bonding. In November we will read *The Muralist* by B. A. Shaprio. Please join us!



****MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, October 26 on our regular 4th Thursday. Call Marlene, 925-689-5439, if you have any suggestions for a movie. We always discuss the film after over coffee, other liquid refreshment, or frozen yogurt ~ sometimes, lunch!



****NIMBLE FINGERS** will return on Wednesday, October 25th, at 10:30 am

We can go to lunch at Creekside Grill, which has very nice food and is not expensive. I hope we can come up for some ideas for the Fair Oaks store. Mr. Pierce (the principal) has been running the store once a month and cannot keep doing it. Chits are given to the kids and they can "buy" little things from the store. Donations are welcome: stuff you have around the house, etc. It would be nice to have it staffed once a week, but two times per month would be helpful. I don't know much about it other than Clint Tubbs used to do it. I would LOVE to have one or two people to do it. It would be nice if we had about 10 or more people doing it, so one need only do it occasionally. Please email me or call me if you are coming to Nimble Fingers. Bring something to work on or whatever.

Contact Suzanne Mesetz for details, gmasm39@yahoo.com or 925-939-2132

OTHER GROUPS



****MAH JONGG**

COME PLAY MAH JONGG!

Mah Jongg meets at 12:30 PM on Friday, October 20th, at Brookview Clubhouse.

There is a \$2.00 per person charge for the clubhouse rental. If you don't know how to play Mah Jongg, but would like to learn, we will be happy to teach you.

Reservations are a must each month. Contact: Suzanne Salter at 925-935-0861, seabear2@msn.com Gayle Miner at 925-349-6795, gayle.miner@yahoo.com We play on the 3rd Friday of the month We would love to have you join our group.



****GRAND SLAMMERS**, a social bridge group, plays on the second Monday of each month at 12:30 at the Brookview Club House. This month we meet on Monday, October 9th.

Each player pays \$5, which covers \$3 for our Local Scholarship Fund and \$2 for facility use. All player levels are welcome, members and non-members.

Contact Marlene DeLaurenti at mdl@astound.net or 925-934-4171 if you are interested in playing.

SAM PROGRAM

Suzanne Mesetz

SAM (Study Art and Music) program at Fair Oaks Elementary School is LOTS of fun. We are doing it November 7-17. The topic is "Cave Painting" with the children using charcoal on long pieces of butcher paper. We'll tell them about the caves found in southern France. The minimum number of helpers would be one or two. If anyone is interested in just observing, please come. I personally love doing this program. I did FAME (Fine Arts and Music in Education) at PHE with some of my grandchildren some years ago. I thought that program was too long, with not much variety. I created SAM at Marilyn Tubbs' urging. I asked teachers how long they thought the lecture should be and tried to adhere to their suggestions. I have also included Black History Month with Gayle Garrison, which focused on quilts and spirituals.

If anyone wants to head up one of the programs, that would be great. My goal (which is, of course, unrealistic!) is to do 5 programs per school year. We probably will be lucky to do 3. Please let me know if you are willing to work on this for the kiddos.

Another activity is the Fair Oaks student store. Mr. Pierce (the principal) has been running the store once a month and cannot keep doing it. Chits are given to the kids and they can "buy" little things from the store. Donations are welcome: stuff you have around the house, etc. It would be nice to have it staffed once a week, but two times per month would be helpful. I don't know much about it other than Clint Tubbs used to do it. I would LOVE to have one or two people to do it. It would be nice if we had about 10 or more people doing it, so one need only do it occasionally.

Suzanne Mesetz gmasm39@yahoo.com 925-939-2132



ANNUAL LAYETTE SHOWER

Benefiting new mothers and babies
in need in Contra Costa County

We are meeting at
Susan Rheingruber's home
14 Pillon Real
Pleasant Hill

November 29, 2017
10 AM

Bring lightly used or new baby needs as gifts
(do not wrap) and have some fun with your
friends.

Please call if you plan to come
Susan Rheingruber 925-945-0347

KINDER'S KINDER'S KINDER'S

**Who doesn't like Kinder's
sandwiches???**

**One \$10 ticket gets you a sandwich and a
drink AND \$4 goes to AAUW Fund**

**Tickets are valid for 4 months
at Kinder's in the
Nob Hill Shopping Center**

**Buy now!!
Fund committee members will have
tickets for sale at our various events**

**Who doesn't like Kinder's
sandwiches???**

TECH TREK TIDINGS

Diane Coventry

The next Tech Trek meeting is at my house on:

Thursday, October 12, 7:15 pm

225 Christie Dr, Martinez

Please read Jailynn's thank you note in the next column.

To register for the **Painting with a Purpose** (See the flyer on page 6) fundraiser click on this link:

<http://www.paintingwithatwist.com/events/viewEvent.aspx?eventID=1099618>

using this passcode: **TECH TREK ROCKS**

and follow the directions. If you have any questions contact Diane Coventry.

diane.coventry@yahoo.com or 925-293-4699

HELP WANTED

Nominating Committee for 2017-2018

The Nominating Committee for 2017-2018 will be elected at the general meeting in November. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to serve on this valuable committee.

The committee will consist of three nominees from the Board:

Nominee 1

Nominee 2

Nominee 3, alternate

And four nominees from the general membership:

Nominee 1

Nominee 2

Nominee 3

Nominee 4, alternate

If you are interested in participating on this committee, please contact::

Marilyn Thelen, Parliamentarian

925-228-2600 ilmthelen@comcast.net

Here is a letter from Tech Trek camper Jailynn Lozano

Dear AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch,

My name is Jailynn Lozano and I attended Tech Trek this past summer at Sonoma State. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend today's meeting because I have a softball tournament. I'm grateful I will be able to share a little bit of my experience through this letter. I first want to say I had a lot of fun, I was able to meet lots of other girls like me who enjoys science, math & technology and I learned so many amazing things. The most exciting part of my experience at Tech Trek would either have to be the releasing of my team's hot air balloon or looking through some very high tech telescopes to see planets. I got to see Jupiter and the four of its moons! I also got to see a presentation about outer space by a professor named Thomas Targett, who was very funny. I actually got to talk to him after the presentation and ask him all my questions.

Living in the dorms for a week was an interesting & fun experience. I slept in the same room as two other girls I had never met. We are supposed be asleep by ten thirty but sometimes we would stay up late telling stories. All ten girls in our dorm section were a lot of fun to be with, even though some of us were a little shy, we all ended up treating each other like we were good friends.

There are so many professions that are in the scientific and technological field that I was not even aware of, such as medical engineer, reservoir engineer, and so much more. The thing that really made me happy on Professional Women's Night is that they're all, well, women! When people think of scientists and doctors and software engineers, people usually envision men doing those jobs. It was really cool to see women taking about their personal experiences doing these professions. These women made me feel that I can do these things just as good as any man.

Again, thank you so much for sponsoring this amazing event that I was so blessed to have experienced.

Sincerely,
Jailynn Lozano
8th Grade
Martinez Junior High



Pleasant Hill-Martinez AAUW Tech Trek Fundraiser

*Painting with a Purpose for Tech Trek
2 hour class costs \$35- arrive 15-20 minutes early*

Saturday, November 18th 3:00 - 5:00 pm

*Painting with a Twist of Pleasant Hill
548 Contra Costa Blvd. Suite E/F
Pleasant Hill, Ca. 94523*

*Studio holds only 30 guests - in the Bar Room, you can order beer and wine
Appetizers and endless lemonade or ice tea*

*Step-by-step instruction with an experienced and enthusiastic local artist.
You will leave with a one-of-a-kind creation and a new found talent.*

Starry Night over the Golden Gate



Sign up online at:

<https://www.paintingwithatwist.com/events/viewevent.aspx?eventId=1099618>

*This event requires this passcode to register - **TECH TREK ROCKS***

Space is limited





Pleasant Hill - Martinez AAUW Website



Our website will show you everything you need to know about our Pleasant Hill - Martinez branch. See pictures from our September Brunch on the **Photos Page**. Find your picture and photos of all of our members on the **Members Page**. Would you like a new picture taken?

Just go to <http://www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org> for all of this and more. Remember to press F5 to get the most current version of each page. Forward any questions or comments that you may have to the webmaster, located on the **About Us Page**.

Sherrie Moore, webmaster

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017
7 PM
Rolling Green Clubhouse

Copy deadline for the
November 2017 N.E.W.S. is:
Sunday, October 22nd

Please email copy to:

Reba Siero rebasiero@yahoo.com
925-228-8211

Outlook Has Gone Digital!

Starting with the summer 2017 issue, *AAUW Outlook* went digital. You'll still get the same insight about the issues that affect women and girls the most, but with more content. Make sure we have your preferred email address on file, and look out for this issue in your inbox!



California Women Lead
ENGAGE • EMPOWER • ELECT



LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Ever considered getting involved in your local community as an appointee to a board or commission? Want to know more about how the process works? How do you navigate the process and who can help? This is your opportunity!!!

Join California Women Lead and State Assemblywoman Catharine Baker on **“October 12th, 6:30 pm”** at **Civic Park Community Center Social Hall** (1375 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek) for an appointments training. You will learn the process that one should take to be appointed to a board/commission/committee at the local and state level. With the number of women in government decreasing, we want to empower women to apply for appointments to reach gender equality on boards and commissions. There is no admittance without prior RSVP. To RSVP visit <http://www.cawomenlead.org/event/WalnutCreekAppointments> If you have any questions, contact California Women Lead at (916) 551-1920.

This training is free and open to the public. The event is sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in Contra Costa County and Junior League East Bay. Women are underrepresented in government. Learn how to get involved at the local and state level to start turning this around.



"Save the Soup" date!

Fall is here with January soon approaching and that means it's time for soup! Please mark the date for the Soup Supper, Wednesday, January 24, and be thinking of that tasty soup you might bring.

Our speaker, Martinez City Council member, Lara DeLaney, will share her fascinating childhood while growing up in Saudi Arabia.

Thank you ...
Margie Pruitt and Carol Walsh

SUNSHINE

Gayle Garrison

When a member needs a get well card, sympathy card, or just a thinking of you, please let me know.

Gayle Garrison
tarheel61@yahoo.com or 925-798-7528

Please, write any checks to the branch:
AAUW Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch

AAUW FUND

Marlene Maksel and Barbara Chambers, AAUW Fund VPs

FUND FACTS

If you have ever wondered where the monies you generously donate to AAUW Fund goes, you should plan to attend the annual No. California Fall Luncheon honoring 2017-2018 California Fellowship and Grant recipients.

This year the luncheon will be on Sunday, October 29, at the Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville. The event begins with registration at 11:30 am, followed by lunch and presentations by those women receiving the fellowships and grants.

It is truly an inspiring afternoon when hearing the different fields of study these recipients are pursuing. And, how much the financial aid from the fellowships and grants means to these women (i.e. provides child care, eliminates the need for a job, gives emotional support, etc.). You will be proud of your contributions!

Reservations must be received by October 16. There is a choice between a Sunburst Chicken Salad and a Vegetarian Salad ~ cost is \$45. Please contact Marlene if you are interested in attending.

AAUW Announces Fellowships

Janet Andronis, Communications

The Pleasant Hill-Martinez branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) announces the application period is open for AAUW Fellowships. The period is open August 1 to November 15, 2017.

AAUW is an association formed in 1881 to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. In the 130 years of our AAUW Fund, nearly 100 million dollars has been given out in fellowships, grants and awards.

The fellowships are:

Dissertation Fellowships are in the **amount of \$20,000** to offset a scholar's living expenses while she completes her dissertation.

Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowships are in the **amount of \$30,000** and are designed to assist scholars in obtaining tenure and other promotions.

The Pleasant Hill-Martinez Branch is fortunate to have one member, Ish Mendonsa, who many years ago was awarded a fellowship of \$600 to complete her Master's degree in Gerontology. She has since spent 30 years working in field programs for seniors. She retired as Director of Senior Services for Alameda County.

Another person who received a fellowship spoke at our general meeting. She is Dena Al-Adeeb and is a Ph.D. candidate in the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Department at New York University. Her research is related to the United States' military occupation of ancient Iraqi heritage sites and the destruction of cultural institutions such as museums, libraries, and universities.

Much more information can be found on the national site at www.aauw.org. For information specific to our local branch, you can also refer to our branch site at www.aauw-pleasanthill-martinez.org.

Advancing equity for women and girls through
advocacy, education, philanthropy and research



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Bea Ball and Elva Valli, Membership VPs

On Saturday, September 16th, the weather was very kind to our AAUW branch. Our fears were that it would either rain or be scorching hot. It was neither and turned out to be a perfect day, in a perfect setting. Thanks to our hosts, Marilyn and Jim Thelen, our September Brunch was a wonderful way to welcome back members for the 2017-2018 branch year.

The members attending the brunch were joined by the Tech Trek Girls, their parents, and even a few sisters. It was inspiring to listen to the Trekkers share stories of the experiences they enjoyed at their Math and Science Camp this past summer. It is rewarding to our branch membership to see how these young girls benefit from their participation in this program. The parents of Ellie Schnichnes, Kira Funk, Dee Lara and Jasmine Kimbrough should be very proud of their daughters.

We welcomed guests Donna DiBetta, Pam Schmitz, and Karen Sandri. Other guests were Shia Stennis and her mother, Wanda. Shia represented our branch at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). She entered the University of California at Berkeley to study for a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture.

Thanks to all of you for volunteering to help. Claudia and Jennifer introduced all guests and invited them to the deliciously presented brunch fare which you provided. The set-up crew on Friday morning was quite a work force. Equally helpful were the members who helped on Saturday morning and stayed to clean-up after the brunch. Amazing workers! First, there were many tables and in a flash everything was cleaned up and once again stored in the Thelens' garage. I think the beautiful brunch offerings were even more delicious than last years. Thank you for volunteering such an array of outstanding food which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. It is difficult to thank each one of you individually, but know that this Branch Brunch is always pleasant and successful only because of its members.

Bea and I thank each and every one of you.

Bea Ball at 925-890-0202 and Elva Valli at 925-228-8056

New Member Information:

Donaleen (Donna) DiBetta
4803 Tahoe Circle
Martinez, CA 94553
925-228-5606
no e-mail given
Contra Costa College - ADN - Registered Nursing

Karen Sandri
3818 Alhambra Way
Martinez, CA 94553
925-708-9172 cell
sandri5@att.net
BS - USC - Sports Medicine/Exercise Science
BS - Mt. Saint Mary's - Physical Therapy

Sabiha Gokcen
2047 Olympic Drive
Martinez, CA 94553
925-229-5705 / 925-989-3606 cell
7MEOWERS@sbcglobal.net
BS - Univ. of MN - Chemistry/Biochemistry/Microbiology
PhD - UC Berkeley - Chemistry

Pamela Schmitz
4804 Tahoe Circle
Martinez, CA 94553
559-392-6151
pamschmitz@hotmail.com
BS - Golden Gate Univ. - Business Management

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS:

Page 24 ~ Eldene (El) Lucchese is NOT a dual member with OML. She is wholly and solely a member of PH-Mtz.

Page 18 ~ Barbara Chambers has new email ccrecbarb@gmail.com

Page 28 ~ Gael Rodgers has an email rodgers@gmail.com



A Salute to Spring

Saturday, May 19, 2018 3:00-6:00 pm

Just a reminder that there will be an organizational meeting for *A Salute to Spring* on Tuesday, October 24 at 11:00 am at Janice Walker's, 524 Monti Circle, Pleasant Hill.

If you can't make the meeting but are willing to assist us in any way or are able to donate a basket, an auction item, a gift card or any other enticing item, do contact one of us! All assistance will be greatly appreciated!

Co-Chairs:

Marlene DeLaurenti mdl@astound.net
Janice Walker sandjwalk@comcast.net



Elena Noble - CCC Inter-Branch Council Start Smart Facilitator

Yikes, **102 years** is much too long for Women to achieve Pay Equity in the Workplace. So here and across the country we at AAUW are doing something about it.

For the third year in a row Start Smart Salary Negotiation Workshops are being offered to students of the Contra Costa Community College District. Our successful partnership with **Diablo Valley College** has opened negotiations with **Contra Costa College**. We connected with Career Services Director, Natasha DeAlmeida who is interested in offering a Start Smart Workshop sometime this year. I might add as a former AAUW Scholarship recipient, Natasha is well aware of AAUW and the supportive work we do for Women.

Stay tuned as we announce dates and times for upcoming workshops.

For questions contact me at:

Enoble4@astound.net

I have cut and pasted some articles that pertain to Public Policy from both our State and National Offices. Please note how Secretary DeVos is working to get rid of Policy IX and how that actions will hurt women in so many ways.

California Works to Bolster Title IX Protections for Students

Earlier this month, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos [announced](#) that the Department of Education would be reviewing [Title IX](#) regulations and guidance, including rescinding a 2011 Dear Colleague Letter on Title IX and sexual violence that aims to prevent and end discrimination in our schools. California State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson (D), backed by AAUW of California members, is [championing a bill](#) that would enshrine protections similar to those laid out in the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter into law. The bill passed both chambers of the California legislature and awaits Gov. Jerry Brown's (D) signature. Other states looking to [stand with survivors](#) and vigorously enforce Title IX should consider advocating for similar legislation in their own statehouses.

From the National AAUW Don't let Congress defund the equal pay data collection. Call your Representative at 1-855-973-0824 now!

The latest numbers are out and they confirm what we already know – the gender pay gap is persistent and it's pernicious. According to [new data](#) released today, U.S. women make on average only 80 cents for every dollar men are paid.

To add insult to injury, Congress is now moving to defund a crucial data collection tool that helps employers and enforcers identify pay discrimination.

Let's be clear: voting to defund the equal pay data collection is a vote against equal pay.

This week, the House of Representatives will vote on the FY 2018 Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill, which includes language that would defund the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's collection of summary pay data by gender, race, and ethnicity through the Employer Information Report, known as the EEO-1. **This information is invaluable to the fight for fair pay.** That's why Representatives DeLauro, Frankel, and Scott have offered an amendment that would restore funding for the EEO-1 pay data collection.

Call 1-855-973-0824 now to urge your representative to vote YES on the DeLauro/Frankel/Scott amendment to the FY18 Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill to restore funding for the equal pay data collection. When you use our phone line, you'll hear a brief script before being connected to the appropriate office. The vote could happen as soon as tonight, so don't wait to make your voice heard.

At our current rate of progress, the gender pay gap won't close for more than a century, but there are actions our lawmakers can take to make pay equity a reality.

Call 1-855-973-0824 now or [send an email](#) to your member of Congress and let them know you won't keep waiting.

This is particularly disturbing as it pertains to rape victims and Secretary's DeVos' apparent belief that most rape charges are false charges.

This week, AAUW helped to deliver over 100,000 letters from advocates who urged the Department of Education to protect and preserve the Title IX guidance that keeps students safe.

But yesterday, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced that she is taking the first step towards dismantling protections for survivors of campus sexual assault, claiming that existing guidelines have "failed." According to this logic, the Secretary sees evidence that schools are failing to adequately protect students as a reason to weaken Title IX protections – not enforce them.

AAUW stands with survivors and [remains committed to protecting and defending Title IX](#). It's time for schools to step up and demonstrate that they will do the right thing for their students even in the midst of potential rollbacks from the Department of Education. That's why we're calling on you to take strategic action now.

Here's what you can do to stand up to this attack on civil rights:

Schedule a visit to your local school's Title IX Coordinator to address the Department of Education's announcement about the future of Title IX enforcement. Use our [lookup tool](#) to find their contact information and [log your meeting plans here](#) so that we can send you materials.

At the meeting, explain that AAUW opposes any intent to roll back this guidance. AAUW urges schools to leave in place their current, strong policies. You can bring [AAUW's statement](#) to share.

Urge your local Title IX Coordinator to speak out about the importance of upholding Title IX protections at their school. This sample [letter to editor](#) can be customized and co-signed by meeting attendees, your branch members, other allies, and local Title IX Coordinators. [Submit](#) it to a local paper or campus publication.

Ask what support your local Title IX Coordinator needs from the community. Hundreds of AAUW members have [delivered resources](#) to Title IX Coordinators to help these individuals better understand and perform their important jobs of ensuring that learning environments are free from sex discrimination. Find out how you can continue to support these efforts through ongoing conversation, community events, and more.

As a committed AAUW activist and Title IX advocate, you've helped move the needle toward preventing and ending discrimination in our schools.

With this progress under attack, now more than ever we need to make our voices heard.

Lita Gloor-Little

lgloorlittle@gmail.com

2017-2018 LEADERSHIP TEAM

October 2017 and beyond

- Oct 4** Morning Books, 10 am, Sandy Wolfe's
- Oct 9** Grand Slammers Bridge, 12:30 ppm
Brookview Clubhouse
- Oct 11** In Indelible Ink, 10 am, Ginny Hargrave's
- Oct 11** Board meeting, 7 pm,
Rolling Green Clubhouse
- Oct 12** CCC IBC/Junior League workshop, 6:30 pm,
Walnut Creek Civic Park Community Center
Reservations required - see flyer
- Oct 12** Tech Trek meeting, 7:15 pm,
Diane Coventry's
- Oct 17** Lunchin' Ladies, 1 pm, Marlene by the 15th
La Sen, Concord
- Oct 18** October program, 7 pm, Sally Van Slyke
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PH
- Oct 20** Mah Jongg, 12:30 pm
Brookview Clubhouse
- Oct 22** October 2017 N.E.W.S. deadline to Reba
- Oct 23** Evening Books, 7 pm, Jeanne McGinnis'
- Oct 24** A Salute to Spring planning meeting, 11 am,
Janice Walker's home
- Oct 25** Nimble Fingers, 10:30 am, Suzanne Mesetz
- Oct 26** Matinee Idle, Marlene Maksel
- Nov 4** Tech Trek/AAUW Fund Fundraiser
Bowling Tournament, 12:30 - 4:30 pm
Paddock Bowl, Martinez
- Nov 18** Painting for a Purpose for Tech Trek, 3 pm,
Painting with a Twist, Pleasant Hill
- May 19, 2018** A Salute to Spring, 3 pm,
Cheryl Buscaglia's home

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