



Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley (CA) Branch

Santa Barbara—Goleta Valley
AAUW

Volume 6
Number 1

Coast Connections

The SB-GV AAUW Monthly Newsletter

July/August, 2015

Celebrating 100 years of empowering women in the Santa Barbara area.

Santa Barbara – Goleta Valley AAUW
invites you to join us for



"Catching Shrimp with Bare Hands"

The Story Behind the Story

Special Presentation by author and
branch member Michelle Robin La

Thursday, July 23, 2015 at 4 pm

Goleta Library Community Room

500 North Fairview, Goleta

Michelle Robin La's first book, *Catching Shrimp with Bare Hands: A Boy from the Mekong Delta*, is the true story of her husband, Lurong La, growing up in the midst of the Vietnam War and his struggle for freedom after the Communist takeover. When the 1968 Tet Offensive forces Lurong's family to flee the countryside for the safety of the city, his mother continues to travel back and forth to their island farm despite threats from the Việt Cộng and nearby firefights. Lurong only wants to catch fish and slingshot birds, but the war ends and Communism plunges their country back in time to a land without electricity or fuel where books are burned and propaganda "kneads their brains." He starts to fight for his freedom the only way he knows how.

Bring your book for Michelle to sign!
Catching Shrimp with Bare Hands is available at Chaucer's
or through Amazon.



"My life changed when I went to college and met a boy from the Mekong Delta. This girl raised in Minnesota by parents from a Swedish-American farming community became part of a culture of rice and fish sauce, Buddhist temples and dragon dances.

"My Vietnamese-American family's stories fascinated me and inspired me to write *Catching Shrimp with Bare Hands*, a memoir of my husband's life."



Santa Barbara-Goleta Valley (CA) Branch

"...an exquisitely researched and finely tuned memoir....Michelle has an uncanny gift for seeing the world right through the eyes of a bright kid....Her narrative never tries to 'sound' like a child, she simply is the kid....a tender but realistic look at life in the Mekong Delta during the Vietnam War and communist conquest..."—Erin Graffy de Garcia for the *Montecito Journal*

President's Message

Welcome to the 2015-2016 AAUW year! This summer your Steering Committee will be meeting to plan our some wonderful events and programs for our members and the public, always keeping in mind the AAUW mission of advancing equity for women and girls. If you have an idea for a program or a particular issue that you would like to see us address, please contact one of us! Our planning retreat is on July 9, but good ideas are welcome any time.

As well as continuing our successful existing interest groups (Lunch Bunch, Movie Night, Book Ends, Outings), we would love to see new groups develop this year and several have been suggested: Music Makers, reimagining La Cuisine dining group, an afternoon or morning book group, and a Current Events/ Women's Issues discussion group. Be looking for some email announcements for organizational meetings for these groups in the coming weeks.

If you have another idea, please let us know!

We are looking forward to a meaningful and enjoyable year ahead!

Claire VanBlaricum
967-7523

Jane Honikman
967-9757

AAUW's Homage to David Letterman

*By Kathy Andreini and Ginny Hatfield,
AAUW CA Membership Committee Co-Chairs*

The Membership Committee recently polled the branches that had recruited ten or more new members this year and asked them how they did it. We thought all branches could benefit from this advice, so borrowing the format from Late Night with David Letterman, who recently said goodbye to his nightly telecast, here are the top ten ways AAUW CA branches brought in new members this year: (drum roll please...)

- 10** Scheduling a special meeting in the summer or fall, to which members invite prospective members and which highlights AAUW programs and activities.
- 9** Outreaching to community leaders, national members, targeted groups and prospective members through flyers and emails.
- 8** Establishing and fostering college/university partnerships.
- 7** Providing a wide variety of interest groups.
- 6** Using social media, website, Facebook, developing interesting newsletters.
- 5** Taking advantage of the Shape the Future Campaign.
- 4** Creating interesting, relevant programs for general meetings.
- 3** Participating in community events/programs.
- 2** Welcoming, involving, mentoring new members (who bring in more new members).

And...you know this one...the NUMBER ONE way that branches recruit new members is:

1 *Members inviting friends and acquaintances to join!*

Upcoming Tech Trek Events

If you'd like a small taste of the enthusiastic atmosphere at the Tech Trek camp, here are two opportunities to be involved:

Help with camp registration:

12 – 1:30 pm

Sunday, July 19 or July 26

Anacapa Dorm, UCSB

Volunteers are needed to help register the newly arriving campers and to show them and their families their assigned rooms. If you like, you can stay for the orientation given to campers and families.

Attend a Tech Trek Open House:

9 – 11 am

Thursday, July 23 or July 30

You get to see the girls in action at the camp.

tech
trek

Interested in either opportunity? Contact Barbara Levi at 962 8900 or bglevi@msn.com



Happy Campers

The girls pictured here will be headed to Tech Trek camp at UCSB this summer, thanks to funds contributed by AAUW members as well as by local businesses and individuals. The happy faces reflect the good time they had at a recent Meet and Greet, designed to help them get to know each other before camp. The girls are grouped by the camp session they will attend. Altogether, our branch is sending 28 campers from 5 public junior highs in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara and Goleta. Photos courtesy of Gerry Ching.





Celebrating the 43rd Anniversary of Title IX

This Tuesday, June 23, marked the 43rd anniversary of Title IX. AAUW celebrated in style with a well-attended bipartisan reception on Capitol Hill. Staffers representing the offices of 45 Members of Congress and House and Senate committee offices, 25 advocacy and civil rights organizations, AAUW members and supporters of Title IX gathered to celebrate AAUW's Lobby Corps 40 years of activism on behalf of gender equity in education. Senator Hirono spoke about her personal relationship with Rep. Patsy Mink, who motivated her as the first woman of color in Congress and a fierce advocate for women's rights. Leader Nancy Pelosi also said a few words at the reception, toasting AAUW for being "persistently, excellently there" in support of women since 1881 and noting the efforts of AAUW Lobby Corps. have put in every Thursday for the past 40 years.

Lisa Maatz, Vice President of AAUW Government Relations, reminded all in attendance that our work to implement Title IX continues. She released a letter from the National Coalition for Women and Girls which lists gender equity amendments to the Every Child Achieves Act which the Senate will vote on in a few weeks.

As a young woman one year away from finishing her college career, I cannot help but look back at my time in school and realize how grateful I am for the work of Patsy Mink to get Title IX passed. I played sports throughout my K-12 career. It was not until high school that I began to hear stories from my mother and aunts about their inability to play sports.

Now that I am an intern at AAUW I am working to educate people that Title IX not only affects women in sports, but does so much more. For example, Title IX enforcement includes preventing sexual harassment and violence which the Supreme Court has recognized as extreme forms of sex discrimination covered by Title IX. We as a nation are finally beginning to understand sexual assault on college campuses as a prominent issue, and realize that students in these situations need to know their rights. Thanks to Title IX, I feel more empowered to continue in the fight to end sexual assault on campus, and the fight to protect survivors of assault who simply want to get an education.

Best,

Rosemary Tootell

AAUW Lobby Corps Marks 40 Years of Successes

In 2015, Lobby Corps celebrates 40 years of successes in advancing legislation to empower women and girls. It all began in 1973, when AAUW took the step to register as a federal lobbyist, thus forming the Capitol Hill Lobby Corps. This kind of group was a first for AAUW, and the inaugural team (which began lobbying in 1975) boasted 29 members from branches in the Washington metro area.


Over the past 40 years, Lobby Corps members have continued to flex their political muscle as volunteer citizen activists, spurring action around issues like economic security, education, and civil rights. One of the group's first victories was a bill to provide divorced women with legal access to a portion of their former spouses' pensions. Another critical victory came in 1993, when President Bill Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act, legislation for which Lobby Corps had been pushing for seven years. Major successes also came in 2009 with the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and in 2013 with the passage of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.

July/August 2015 Calendar

"One must maintain a little bit of summer, even in the middle of winter."

~ Henry David Thoreau



- | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|
| July 14 | Tuesday
11:45 am | Lunch Bunch - Endless Summer Bar Café, 113 Harbor Way at the breakwater. Free valet parking available. Elevator to the second floor, over the Maritime Museum. Note earlier time to avoid the crowds! Please call Claire VanBlaricum at 967-7523 by Monday afternoon for a reservation. |
| July 21 | Tuesday
7:00 pm | Book Ends - <i>Tell the Wolves I'm Home</i> by Carol Rifka Brunt, meeting at the home of Beverly Kowalsky-Ching, 462 S. San Marcos Rd. |
| July 23 | Thursday
4:00 pm | Special Presentation - Author & Branch Member Michelle Robin La
The "story behind the story" of Michelle's first book, <i>Catching Shrimp with Bare Hands</i> . Goleta Library Community Room |
| July 28 | Tuesday | Movie Night - Please watch for an email the weekend before for information on the film, time, and theater location. |
|  | | |
| August 11 | Tuesday
12 noon | Lunch Bunch - Del Pueblo Café in the Magnolia Shopping Center, 5134 Hollister Ave., SB. Please call Claire VanBlaricum at 967-7523 by Monday afternoon for reservations. |
| August 18 | Tuesday
7:00 pm | Book Ends - <i>Catching Shrimp with Bare Hands</i> by Michelle Robin La, meeting at the home of Anne Gray, 7834 Day Drive, Goleta. |
| August 25 | Tuesday | Movie Night - Please watch for an email the weekend before for information on the film, time, and theater location. |

Welcome to Our New Members

Barbara Seigel
Bianca Calhoun
Carin Ezal
Janet Lengsfelder

Deborah McGuire
Suzanne Wertz
Carol Koch
Claudia Scott



Santa Barbara - Goleta Valley AAUW

P.O. Box 802
Goleta, CA 93116-0802
<http://sbgv-ca.aauw.net/>

2014-2015 OFFICERS

Co-presidents:

Claire VanBlaricum
Jane Honikman

Secretary:

Diane Green

Treasurer:

Carol Thompson

Asst. Treasurer:

Irene Stone

Steering Committee:

Ginny Capra
Jill Dunlap
Diane Green
Beverly Kowalsky-Ching
Barbara Levi
Janice Rorick
Michelle La
Ellie Rumelt

Newsletter Editor:

Susan Engles

Scholarship Chair:

Ann Lippincott

Directory:

Ginny Capra



AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

Membership in AAUW is open to people who hold an associate degree or higher. Branch membership offers friendship with like-minded people and an arena for making a positive contribution to your community. Benefits include a subscription to **California PERSPECTIVE**, our quarterly publication. You can join our e-mail lists and attend our annual convention. Membership dues at the branch level include California and National dues.

If you know of someone who you believe would appreciate the opportunity to join our branch, please send them the link to our website (<http://sbgv-ca.aauw.net/>) and give their name and contact information to Ginny Capra at ginnycapra@cox.net.

Eight Ways to Support Your Branch

1. **Work:** Join a committee, chair a committee, run for office, volunteer at a function.
2. **Advertise:** Practice your elevator speech and use it all the time.
3. **Transport:** Invite a friend to a meeting and pick her up, or arrange for someone to do so.
4. **Finance:** Pay your dues on time, give generously to Tech Trek, funds, local scholarships, etc.
5. **Partner:** At the other organizations to which you belong, look for opportunities for them to work with AAUW.
6. **Plan:** Advocate for a yearly strategic planning session.
7. **Connect:** Participate in a branch retreat, join interest groups, talk to visitors and new members.
8. **Inform:** Keep abreast of our issues, take advantage of opportunities to promote them and be sure that the AAUW connection is shown.