



Christmas Party—Save the Date!

OFFICERS

<i>President's Council</i>	<i>Margie Enger</i> 842-9996 <i>Lyn Hackett</i> 842-4946 <i>Carol Smith</i> 848-2475
<i>Program Chair</i>	<i>Lani Yoshimura</i> 379-7964
<i>Membership Chairs</i>	<i>Marianne Peoples</i> 842-9022 <i>Arti O'Connor</i> 847-0451
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	<i>Vacant</i> <i>Can you do it?</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Cindy Hughes</i> 847-6868
<i>Public Policy</i>	<i>Vacant</i> <i>Can you do it?</i>
<i>Publicity Chair</i>	<i>Connie Rogers</i> 842-8494
<i>Communications Chair</i>	<i>Susan Murphey Patereau</i> 981-2799
<i>International Studies Chair</i>	<i>Lyn Hackett</i> 842-4946

The annual Gilroy AAUW Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 2nd. This year we will gather at Al Slechta's house, 9465 Eagle View Way.

Al has been a member for two years, and was married to the late Ruth Slechta, a longtime, very active Gilroy AAUW member. Ruth and Al hosted this gathering several years ago, and Al is excited to invite the group back this year.

The event starts at four in the afternoon, with the Gilroy High School Choir scheduled to sing at six.

All members and their significant others are invited, as well as friends of members. There is a charge of \$10 per person to cover the drinks, and each member is asked to bring a dish. If your birthday is January – June, bring an appetizer. If it is July – December, bring a sweet treat.

The group also collects contributions for those in need, at this event. This year we are collecting money to purchase gifts for seniors in the community who are in need of some holiday cheer. Please make a donation to this fund if you can. Carol Smith is coordinating this project with Community

Solutions, who identifies the receivers. We have worked with the group in the past and they are very appreciative of our generosity every year.

Please call Carolyn Schell at 847-1022 to let her know you are going to attend. It helps to have a count for planning purposes! If you need a ride, or can give a ride to another member, please let her know that, also.

The directions to Al's house are: Take Santa Teresa Boulevard to Longmeadow Avenue, and turn West (a left turn if you are coming from First Street). Eagle View is a right turn off Longmeadow. Al's house will be on the left.

We have pictures from last year's party at Evelia & Jaime Rosso's house on our website. You can review them at www.gilroyaaum.org, then click on the "Local Business" button, then click on the "Specials" button.



Al Slechta will host the Christmas Party this year.



GHS Chamber Singers at the 2006 Christmas Gathering at Evelia and Jaime Rosso's house. Inset: Gilroy High School Chamber Singers Jenn Walker, Cate Petersen, Jessica Groppe and Paige Albright sing Christmas songs at St. Louise Hospital.

Interest Groups

Culinary

Lyn Hackett reports that the Oktoberfest Dinner on October 20th was wonderful. A small group enjoyed a huge amount of delicious food.

A December dinner is planned at Charleen Arnberg's house. Charleen will be busy getting her house decorated, but she won't have to cook because all attendees should call her for a recipe to prepare and bring. Charleen can be reached at 842-2909, or e-mail her at char925@verizon.net.

Wine & Whine

On Friday, November 2nd the group met at Famous Dave's, Gilroy Crossings Shopping Center. The small group had an OK time and decided that the venue didn't lend itself to the Wine & Whine format so won't schedule that location again.

The group present whined about how busy they are in December and decided to take one date of their calendars: the Wine & Whine.

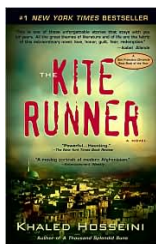
NO WINE & WHINE IN DECEMBER. BACK TO WHINING ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF JANUARY, 2008.

Books

The November 29 Books Group meeting will be held at Jean Marie Derry's house. On December 13, they will meet at Floy Ebaugh's house.

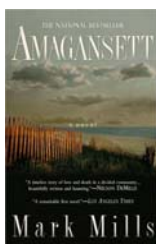
Books Group members have been reading and reporting on some very interesting books. Here's a sample:

Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini

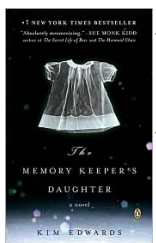


Taking us from Afghanistan in the final days of the monarchy through the horrific rule of the Taliban, **The Kite Runner** is the heartbreaking story of the unlikely and inseparable friendship between a wealthy Afghan boy and the son of his father's servant, both of whom are caught in the tragic sweep of history. Published in the aftermath of America's invasion of Afghanistan, Khaled Hosseini's haunting writing brought a part of the world to vivid life that was previously unknown.

Amagansett, Mark Mills



When a first-generation Basque fisherman pulls in the body of a beautiful young woman, his close-knit Long Island community will be irrevocably changed. **The Memory Keepers Daughter**, Kim Edwards



On a winter night in 1964, Dr. David Henry is forced by a blizzard to deliver his own twins. His son, born first, is perfectly healthy. Yet when his daughter is born, he sees immediately that she has Down Syndrome. Rationalizing it as a need to protect Norah, his wife, he makes a split-second decision that will alter all of their lives forever. So begins this beautifully told story that unfolds over a quarter of a century in which these two families are bound by the

fateful decision made that long-ago winter night.

Barack Obama in His Own Words, Barack Obama

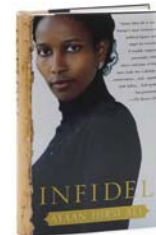
Quotes and anecdotes from Barack Obama on 75 wide-ranging topics from US politics, family, religion, the war, and many other subjects.



T Is for Trespass, Sue Grafton
In what may be her most unsettling novel to date, Sue Grafton's **T is for Trespass** is also her most direct confrontation with the forces of evil. **Infidel**, Ayaan Hirsi Ali



In this profoundly affecting memoir from the internationally renowned author of **The Caged Virgin**, Ayaan Hirsi Ali tells her astonishing life story, from her traditional Muslim childhood in Somalia, Saudi Arabia, and Kenya, to her intellectual awakening and activism in the Netherlands, and her current life under armed guard in the West.



Links

Gilroy AAUW:
www.gilroyaauw.org

California AAUW:
www.aauw-ca.org

National AAUW:
www.aauw.org

These links are also available on the local website, so make it easy on yourself and bookmark the page:
www.gilroyaauw.org/html/links.html

Silicon Valley Reads Program 2007

What if everyone in Silicon Valley read the same book, at the same time... and then discussed it?

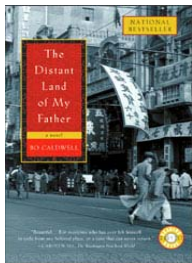
The debut novel of a Cupertino author that tells the story of betrayal and reconciliation spanning several years across two continents has been selected for Silicon Valley Reads 2008.

The Distant Land of My Father by Bo Caldwell will be the subject of numerous programs throughout Santa Clara County in February 2008, when readers throughout Silicon Valley are asked to read the same book, at the same time, and discuss it. The author is scheduled to speak in Gilroy on February 20th at 7 PM. Gilroy AAUW is sponsoring the program and the refreshments.

This will be the sixth year of Silicon Valley Reads, which is co-sponsored by the Santa Clara County Office of Education, Santa Clara County Library, and San Jose Public Library Foundation, as well as locally by the Gilroy AAUW. The goals of the program are to promote reading and literacy while building a sense of community through dialogue among widely diverse readers.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

As this riveting debut novel opens, Anna, the narrator, is living in a storybook world: exotic prewar Shanghai, with handsome young parents, wealth, and comfort. Her father, the son of missionaries, is a charming, though secretive, man, whose greatest joy is sharing his beloved city with his only daughter. Yet, when Anna and her mother flee



Japanese-occupied Shanghai to return to California, he stays behind, believing his connections and a little bit of luck will keep him safe.

Through Anna's vivid memories and her father's journals we learn of his fall from charismatic millionaire to tortured prisoner.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Bo Caldwell was born in Oklaboma City in 1955. She grew up in Los Angeles and attended Stanford University, where she later held a Wallace Stegner Fellowship in Creative Writing and a Jones Lectureship in Creative Writing.



She has received a fellowship in literature from the National Endowment for the Arts, an Artist Fellowship from the Arts Council of Santa Clara County, and the Joseph Henry Jackson Award from the San Francisco Foundation. Her personal essays have appeared in O, The Oprah Magazine, the Washington Post Magazine, and America Magazine, and her short stories have been included in Story, Ploughshares, Epoch, and other literary journals. Her novel, **The Distant Land of My Father**, was published in hardcover by Chronicle Books in October of 2001 and in paperback by Harcourt in September of 2002. The book was a national bestseller, a Los Angeles Times Best Book of 2001, and a Booksense 76 pick. She lives in

Northern California.

SELECTED REVIEWS:

"This is a novel for old China hands, new China hands - and everyone who has ever felt himself in exile from any beloved place or time that can never return."

-- The Washington Post Book World

"The vivid evocation of Shanghai's potent sights, sounds, and smells has all the excitement you could want. An elegant and refined story of families, wartime, and the mystique of memory."

-- Kirkus Reviews

"A magical story...with Caldwell weaving in details until one can smell the steaming noodles sold by street vendors and hear the bustle of an international city filled with both opportunity and danger...Unforgettable...A believable and lovely first novel."

-- BookPage

"This diligently told tale of childhood enchantments and disillusionments has a steady and impressive commitment to telling the story of a remarkable place and a remarkable time."

-- The Times Literary Supplement (London)

The Rules

Equal Times will be published approximately monthly in 2007-2008. The sole purpose of this publication is to convey the association's business to its membership. Only articles and announcements related to branch business will be considered for inclusion.

Submissions, articles and notices are due by the 15th of each month and should be e-mailed, posted or hand delivered to Susan Murphey Patereau, 7470 Crawford Dr., Gilroy 95020, 981-2799, spatereau@charter.net.

Equal Times encourages members to advertise by purchasing a business card size ad, available by contacting Communications Director, Susan Murphey Patereau.



Congress Must Fix the Supreme Court's Ruling

A recent Supreme court Decision severely limits the ability of victims of pay discrimination to seek justice. The Fair Pay Restoration Act will restore that right, and you can help.

On November 1, the AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps visited senators to urge them to sponsor and support the Fair Pay Restoration Act (S. 1843). They delivered letters of support from AAUW and over 200 coalition partners, and several also delivered letters from select AAUW states and branches. AAUW members have been very supportive of this bill, and many of you have already contacted your members of Congress on this issue. How-

ever, AAUW asks you to take action on this legislation again to show a critical mass of support this week and send a strong signal to your senators that pay discrimination will not be tolerated.

The Supreme Court's decision in the Ledbetter v. Goodyear case in May severely limited the ability of victims of pay discrimination to sue under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Fair Pay Restoration Act restores the law to how it was previously applied to be consistent with Congress' intent and the Court's own precedents. The bill would also apply to all claims of discrimination in compensation. Thanks to the hard work of AAUW members and other coalition partners, the House passed its companion bill, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (H.R.

2831), in July.

AAUW believes the outcome in Ledbetter is fundamentally unfair to victims of pay discrimination, which is responsible for a significant portion of the wage gap experienced by women and people of color. Although the wage gap has narrowed over the years, success in closing the gap remains elusive, and the Supreme Court's recent decision in the Ledbetter v. Goodyear case will make it even more difficult for women workers and employees of color to close the wage gap.

Take Action!

To urge **YOUR** senators to cosponsor the Fair Pay Restoration Act, simply get online to www.aawu.org, click on the link to the Fair Pay Restoration Act article. There you can enter your zip code and click "Go!" to be taken to the "Take Action" section. There you can compose and send your message. If your senators have already signed on as cosponsors, you will be able to send them a separate message thanking them for their leadership.

AAUW Video

AAUW's new video features members of diverse ages and backgrounds sharing what they have gained through AAUW and what others can gain by joining.

This inspiring video serves as a powerful reminder of why the organization is still necessary in today's world.

Members share why they felt compelled to join AAUW and why they feel other women should join. The video also highlights AAUW's 125-year legacy, what it offers women today, and why this valued organization still has work left to do — because equity is still an issue.

You can check out the video at <http://www.aawu.org/About/aawuVideo.cfm>.