

# THE AAUW KEY

Palo Alto CA Branch

November 2015 • Volume 63 • Number 3

*Be thankful for your blessings,  
but remember  
those less  
fortunate*



*Take food  
donations to:*

*All Saints Episcopal Food Closet  
555 Waverley, Palo Alto*

*South Palo Alto Food Closet  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
670 East Meadow Drive, Palo Alto*

*Or send a donation to*

*Second Harvest Food Bank of  
Santa Clara & San Mateo Counties  
P.O. Box 1240  
San Jose, CA 95108-1240*

## **October General Meeting with Wall Street Journal reporter and 2014-15 Knight Journalism Fellow, Christina Passariello**

Christina Passariello's talk on Saturday, October 17 was a pleasure for branch members but also for a few library visitors who saw our event taking place in the library's new Embarcadero Room and were able to join us for the talk. Members Betty Gerard and Tempe Javits joined me in asking questions of Christina, since the students I had hoped would do the interview never materialized. Ms. Passariello, nevertheless, has agreed that she would meet with the journalism students in their classroom on some future date.



Christina, who lived and worked in Paris for over a decade, was asked about French food and in answer told a story that she had written about in the Wall Street Journal. The French government sponsors childcare for even very small children. At one point a competition was organized among the childcare chefs. The object was to produce delicious and nutritious meals for one-year-olds. Several of our members who are WSJ readers remembered the article that noted that among the offerings were éclairs filled with

a savory tuna mixture and a cone filled with cream made from formula.

But the greatest part of the time was spent on questions about the supply database that she started working on when she was a 2014-2015 Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford. Christina was part of a WSJ team investigating factories in Bangladesh after a series of fires there had killed scores of workers.

Because, in her year at Stanford, she did not have time to completely verify all the information for the supply DB, it could not be used for a WSJ article that demands 100% accuracy. Christina intends to work further on the data, but points out that while there is information on every garment that tells about the factory of origin, this is coded data that is known only to the manufacturers. If that information were available it would be possible for each of us to know the exact factory that produced our goods.

The conversation then veered from what we know or cannot know to the issue of cheap garments in general, with a number of audience members complaining about the power of big stores like Wal-Mart who can use their buying power to force ever-cheaper items. Christina pointed out that even Asia was now seen as possibly too expensive and that already some manufacturers are turning to Africa to find even more business-friendly environments.

We then discussed another point that Christina raised. Clothing is often becoming cheap enough to allow people to buy more and treat them as disposable items. She remarked on how that contributed to the industrialized nations' problem of too much "stuff".

We heard a great deal that was interesting in Christina's talk, but she also was just a very pleasant person. As Winnie Lew pointed out, this was a speaker who was willing to stay to chat with audience and answer more questions even after the official Q and A ended.

Thanks to branch members Joyce Freiberg, Marian Gex, Judi Swope, Miriam Teeter and Tempe Javitz, for help with refreshments and sign-in.

–Barbara Evans

# November 2015

## 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <b>Mah Jong,</b> 7:30 p.m.	3 <b>Writers</b> 1:30 p.m.	4	5 <b>Board Meeting</b> 1 – 3:00 p.m.	6	7
8	9	10 <b>Meditation</b> 9:45 a.m. <b>Mystery Books</b> 1:30 p.m.	11	12	13 <b>Walkers</b> 9:30 a.m.	14 <b>Film Buffs</b> 7:00 p.m. <b>Moldaw Residences</b>
15	16 <b>Fam. History</b> 11:45 p.m. <b>Mah Jong, Evening Books, both</b> 7:30 p.m.	17 <b>Writers</b> 1:30 p.m.	18	19	20	21
22 <b>Wine Tasting</b> 5 – 7 pm	23 <b>Gadabouts</b> 2:00 p.m.	24 <b>Meditation</b> 9:45 a.m.	25	26  Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

**Board Meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 5 at 1:00 p.m. All branch members are welcome to attend, send an email to [president@aauw-paloalto.org](mailto:president@aauw-paloalto.org) for meeting details.**

*With the exception of the Supper Club, you do not need to be a member of the section to attend a meeting, but call the hostess or section chair to see if there is space for you.*

**Please refer to your directories for section contact information.**

**Monday Evening Books: Meets** Monday, November 16, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Elsie Kent, in P.A. The book for discussion is “*The Girl on the Train*” by Paula Hawkins. Please let Elsie know if you are coming.

**Mystery Books:** Meets Tuesday, November 10, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Marcia Baugh, in P.A. Please let Marcia know if you are coming or not.

**Drama Reading:** We meet on the second Monday at 7:30 p.m. October through May. Call Mildred Saxman for further details.

**Evening Bridge:** Meets the first Wednesday of the month. More players needed. Call Wilma Milligan for further information.

**Family History:** The next meeting will be at CIBO, 3398 El Camino at 11:45 on November 16 for a no-host lunch. We will learn about the Scandinavian Immigrants Members share stories from their families or general historic topics of interest. Please contact Betsy Colby for information.

**Film Buffs:** Meets November 14, at 7:00 in P.A. Our hostess is Elsie Kent. Spouses are welcome. Call Marian Gex for information.

**Gad-Abouts:** Gad-Abouts meet year round on the fourth Monday of the month at 2 p.m. to plan outings and adventures of all kinds. The next meeting will be November 23 at 2:00 p.m. Please call Scotty Martinson for more information.

**Mah Jong:** Beginners and advanced players are invited to play Mah Jong, a Chinese tile game. Meets on the first and third Mondays at 7:30 pm. Please call Marcia Baugh for location and other details.

**Meditation:** Meets the second and fourth Tuesdays, 10 a.m., at the First Christian Church, 2890 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto. Call Charlotte Jackson for further information.

**Money Matters has become inactive.**

**Supper Club:** Meets on the first Saturday at 7 p.m. Call Sylvia Whitcher or Mary Morrison for information.

**Walkers:** Please call Mary Ashley for information.

**Wine Tasting:** Wine Tasting meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, from 5 to 7 p.m. Members study and taste wines, domestic and imported, selected by members of the group. The next meeting is November 22. Spouses are welcome. Contact Carol Hansen, or Barbara Bowden for more information.

**Writers:** Meets Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 1:30 p.m. at Magda Grant’s home in P.A. RSVP to Magda. Meets Tuesday, Nov. 17 at t Marcia Baugh’s home in P.A. RSVP to Marcia.

## WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Wednesday, November 4  
Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.  
Program 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
Los Altos Youth Center, 1 N. San Antonio,  
Los Altos

Topic: “The Iran Nuclear Agreement, Blunder or Breakthrough” with Professor Martin Hellman, Professor Emeritus, Stanford University and founder: Defusing the Nuclear Threat.

Sponsored by the Peninsula Chapter, World Affairs Council. For information, call Carol Stevens, (650) 494-0757.

## Branch Sections are in Full Swing!

With the coming of fall there is the renewal of our Branch Sections. All our sections provide for a welcoming community with a theme. Check out the calendar and perhaps try a new group, or two!

Here's a photo of the October meeting of the **Family History** section lead by Betsy Colby. The section meets every third Monday at Cibo's in Palo Alto. There the group has a Dutch-Treat lunch and participates in the telling of family histories and associated stories.

At the October meeting Heather Galanis and Anna Zara shared the history of [Pope Valley, California](#). Pope Valley is a rural area east of St. Helena in Napa County - it is a small place but has a varied history that includes a Spanish grant of a rancho, a Presidential Thanksgiving turkey pardon, an announcement of a gubernatorial candidacy and beautiful flora.



A December landscape in Pope Valley of roadside oaks with lichen.



*The Key November 2015*

## In Memoriam

The branch lost four long-time members over the last few months.

**Meta Wagstaff** was branch president in 1960-61.

**Barbara Greider** had been in failing health and living at the Commons for some time.

**Mary Lee Hagen** had most recently participated in the Great Decisions section.

**Barbara McCroskey** had been inactive for many years due to illness.

Branch historian Marcia Baugh commented, "These women were all very active in the branch and also participated in the studies done by California AAUW. "

We are required to publish the following Ownership statement once a year.

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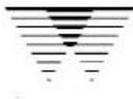
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PERIODICALS

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