

Feb. 2012

# THE BREEZE

AAUW - Tehachapi Mountain Branch

Volume 29 Number 6



**FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING**

**Hottest Ticket in Town!**

February 5, at 2:00 PM

FEBRUARY, 2012 ~

## Calendar

For AAUW Tehachapi Activities,  
please see page 3

### Monthly Meeting:

See article at right!

### Board Meeting

Thursday, February 7, at 4:00  
at the home of Carol Coleman.  
(822-6378)

### Storytellers

Tuesday February 2 at 3PM  
Carolyn Coleman's home

~ and also ~

Thursday, February 23, also at  
3:00 at the home of Carol  
Coleman.

### AAUW Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, February 14, at Noon  
- Pacino's Spaghetti Factory

### Great Decisions

Thursday, February 16th at  
1:00 pm at the home of Sonja  
Wilson, 1390 Tanglewood.

### Book Group

Tuesday, February 21st @  
1:00 p.m. at the Community  
Church.

### Cemetery Interest Group

Friday, February 24, 2012  
10AM

For two years now AAUW has completely sold out our benefit at the BeeKay theater, and we expect to do the same this year!!

The Neil Simon play, "The Sunshine Boys" will showcase Sunday, February 5th, 2:00, so you and your friends and neighbors will have a shorter period of time to purchase your tickets. For \$20.00 you will enjoy the performance, appetizers, cakes and candies, drinks, and our famous raffle and auction. Your money will go directly into the scholarship fund and provide

you with an excellent tax deduction.

The limited number of tickets will be available starting January 3rd at Picture Perfect, 'Hachapi Tee's and the Bear Valley Country store. Don't delay.

Extra tickets for family and friends may be obtained from Tommie Williams, 822-1185.

Thank you all for promoting this spectacular and special fundraiser!

**PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE  
FOR FEBRUARY, 2012**

We are into the second half of our 2011-2012 year and now is my turn to serve as the active Co-President. Thanks to my officer partner and friend Barbara Wood who performed the duties as active Co-President since last summer. I treasure all that Barbara does for our organization; in addition to all this, she participates in the Cemetery Interest Group and serves as our finance officer for the Scholarship Fund for Women. Plus she is a wonderful friend. Thanks, Barbara for all you do! I also must include her husband Jerry in the thanks – Jerry helps out in many ways, hosting our Christmas event and especially with potatoes at our annual Banquet. That man is good with potatoes!

Our February event is a big one! It is also early in the month so I'm sure you have heard of it already. Neil Simon's "Sunshine Boys" will be presented by our spectacular Tehachapi Community Theatre group, and this will be a fundraiser for our Scholarship Fund for Women. The committee organizing this event has done a super job, and can feel pleased that the monies raised will

go into the hands of a Tehachapi scholar. Thank you!

I'm adding in a personal note here – in March I will have made my 5-year survival date from breast cancer. It is a good time to think back and realize just how important friends are in a cancer battle. I deeply value this organization and my friendships that have grown from it. We do a lot of good work in this group; but first and foremost, at least in my mind, is the good work we do for each other as friends. Thanks to each and every one of you for your contributions to our Branch and to your friends in our Branch. And in a strange bit of irony, I'm asking for your thoughts and prayers for my sister, Barbie, who has a new diagnosis of invasive breast cancer and who is starting chemotherapy as this issue is coming out. In our family, unfortunately, breast cancer is an unwanted companion. The good news is it is usually just a companion, not a killer.

Best wishes

- Janice Hagen Armstrong



**Co-Presidents**

Barbara Wood 822-4953  
Janice Armstrong 821-0346

**President-Elect**

Vacant

**Program Co-Vice Presidents**

Susan Hill 821-6008  
Anne Marie Novinger 822-5379

**Membership Vice President**

Tommie Williams 822-1185

**Educational Foundation Co-Vice-Presidents**

Alejandra Whittier 822-3580  
Sonja Wilson 823-7884

**Secretary**

Liz Wolfe 822-5892

**Treasurer/Finance Office**

Janie Tietz 822-7796

AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold an associate, a baccalaureate, or a higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university. In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Friends of AAUW share their skills and abilities with our branch. These local women and men, without associate, baccalaureate, or advanced degree from an accredited institution, assist in achieving the Tehachapi Mountain Branch AAUW goals of life-long education and scholarship support for local students.

The Tehachapi Mountain Breeze is published monthly, September through May, by the Tehachapi Mountain Branch of the AAUW. Please submit articles to the editors by the 15th of the month preceding the date of the publication.

**Breeze Team**

**Editor: Suzanne Bernier**

xangira@gmail.com

**Mailer: Janice Armstrong**

armstronghagen@sbcglobal.net

**Submissions for the Breeze are due by the 15th of the month**



*Those who dwell as  
scientists or laymen,  
among the beauties and  
mysteries of the Earth,  
are never alone or  
weary of life.*

*-- Rachel Carson  
Writer, Biologist,  
Ecologist*

## AAUW TEHACHAPI BRANCH ACTIVITIES

### Storytellers

- Phyllis Belcher

Storytellers are preparing for presentations during March, Women's History Month. Seven women have written monologues portraying women from history, some well known, others unheard of. They will appear at the March AAUW meeting as well as at other organizations. They plan to speak to fifth grade students at the various schools.

The group will meet at **3:00 on February 2** and practice with one another. They will meet again on February 23 for final preparations. Both meetings will be at the home of Carol Coleman, 20476 Old Town Road, 822-6378.

If anyone else is interested in participating, it is not too late. Write a script about a women in history, learn it by memory, find a costume, and join us. (Women already chosen are Queen Elizabeth, Martha Washington, Deborah Sampson, Dorothy Woodruff, and Louisa May Alcott.)



- Jan Combs

The next Lunch Bunch eat-together will be on Tuesday, February 14 (we always meet on the second Tuesday) at 12:00 at Pacino's Spaghetti

Factory. It's located at the corner of Tucker and Tehachapi Boulevard, which I'm certain you all knew already. Please let Phyllis at 822-4340 or Jan 823-9303 know if you plan to attend. It makes it so much easier if we have some idea how many to tell them will be coming.

In January we enjoyed lunch at the Great Wall Chinese Buffet. We all found the buffet fresh and tasty so we are giving the Food a 5 on our 1-5 scale. Since we all served ourselves, we gave ourselves each a 5 for Service. The Ambiance was also a 5 with nice pictures on the wall, a well-placed clock and a clean rest room. In addition to the usual suspects, it was great to have Mary Jane Stoebner join us. We could use some more members joining us as it is a very difficult task doing all this rating. But, we do hope that they help you make dining choices in beautiful Tehachapi and environs.

### Great Decisions

- Sonja Wilson

The Great Decisions group will meet on Thursday, February 16th at 1:00 pm at the home of Sonja Wilson, 1390 Tanglewood. This will be an organizational meeting to decide on the order of the topics discussed and who will host each chapter.

I am in town, east of Curry between Valley Boulevard (202) and Highline Road. Take Curry to Sunrise (it intersects only on the east side of Curry), go east on Sunrise to Tanglewood (first street on right). Turn right on Tanglewood and go to the end of the cul-de-sac, 1390 is the

grey and white house. Our neighbors park head in when they have a lot of guests, and it is OK to use the driveway and pad on the side of the garage.

The books are here. They are \$19 each. If you would like yours early, give me a call (to make sure we are home) and drop by to pick it up when you are in town, or I could bring them to the play on the 5th. Let me know.

There are extra books, if you know anyone who would like to join us. The topics, Middle East Realignment, Promoting Democracy, Mexico, Cybersecurity, Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq, State of the Oceans, Indonesia, and Energy Geopolitics, look very timely. Looking forward to seeing all of you on the 16th.

### AAUW Book Group

- Barbara Zervas

On February 21st @ 1:00 p.m. the Book Group will discuss **David Crockett: Lion of the West** by Michael Wallis. We will meet at the Community Church, in the regular meeting room.

The March 20th book is **Italian Shoes** by Henning Mankell.

### Cemetery Interest Group

- Janice Armstrong

The Cemetery Interest Group will be gathering again on Friday February 24th at 10AM. Contact Janice Armstrong for details.

## START \$MART Workshops

AAUW and the WAGE Project offer Start Smart Campus Negotiation Workshops that provide college women who are approaching the job market the knowledge and skills to negotiate salaries and benefits. AAUW and WAGE have already reached over 125 campuses with this dynamic program.

Learn how to bring Start Smart to a campus and be trained as a facilitator by reviewing the Start Smart Program in a Box.

Use the Start Smart Campus Negotiation Workshop Flyer to share basic information about the training with others.

If you are interested in becoming a facilitator, sponsoring a facilitator, training session for yourself and other

AAUW members, recruiting campuses for these workshops, please fill out this registration form online.

To find Smart Start Campus Negotiation Workshops in your area that AAUW is involved in please visit AAUW's Member Showcase.

For more information on this Start Smart partnership, please e-mail [leadership@aauw.org](mailto:leadership@aauw.org).

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities regarding this program contact Cordy Galligan, Director of Corporate Relationships at [galliganc@aauw.org](mailto:galliganc@aauw.org).

Give now to the AAUW Leadership Programs Fund to support these programs that develop women's potential to lead.



### Unusual taste!

The sweetness of the maple syrup & apple juice is a great contrast with the onion.

Prep Time:  
30 Min

Cook Time:  
30 Min

Number of Ingredients:  
6

## PORK CHOPS WITH CIDER ONION SAUCE

### Recipe

~ Makes 4 servings

- 1 tablespoon Canola Oil
- 4 boneless pork chops
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 3/4 cup apple cider or juice
- 1/3 cup pure maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch

Heat oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Sprinkle both

sides of pork with salt and pepper. Place in skillet; cook 4 minutes or until browned. Turn pork over, reduce heat to medium and cook 6 minutes more or until slightly pink in centers (160°F). Remove from skillet; keep warm.

Add onion; cook 4 minutes or until tender. Stir together remaining ingredients in small bowl until blended. Gradually add to onion; cook 3 to 4 minutes or until sauce is thickened, stirring constantly. Drizzle sauce over pork chops.

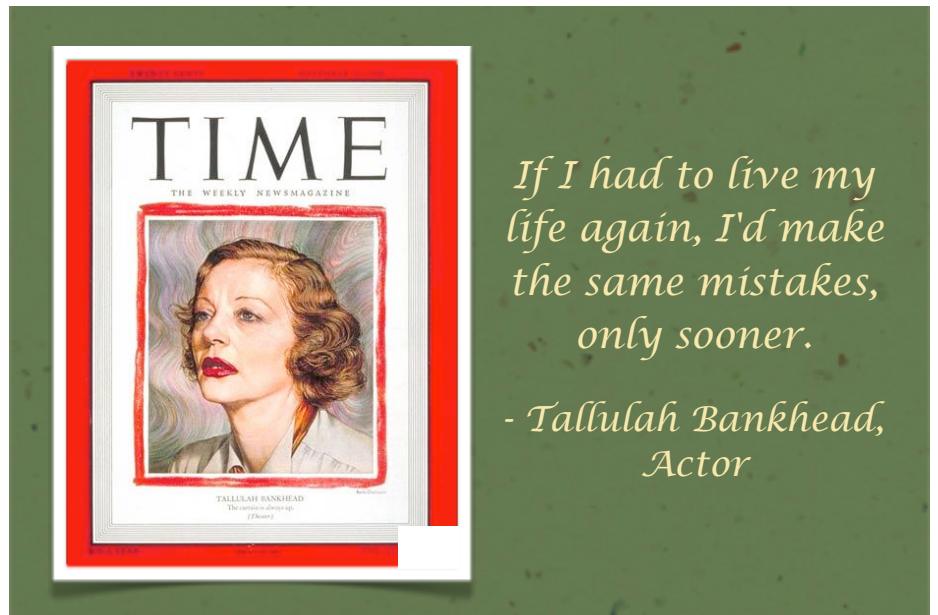
## New Member: Linda Clements

**As a new member** I was asked by Tommie Williams to offer a short bio to The Breeze. I lost my husband of 48 years in June and I joined a grief support group, finding not only emotional support but friendship with Tommie as well. It was through her invitation and encouragement that I joined AAUW after attending the August gathering. Although I have not been able to attend many of the group's functions I look forward to the coming year's activities and more involvement.

I came to California at a very young age from the Lone Star state of Texas, living in the Fresno area until age 10. My family moved to Bakersfield at the time and I spent the next forty-plus years attending local schools, meeting and marrying my high school sweetheart, raising two daughters and pursuing a career.

My husband and I met in high school and married shortly after graduation. He spent the next four years in the U.S. Navy and I spent the time working and going to college night classes. After his military duty my husband began a long career in computers with Kern High School District. Serving 35 years with KHUSD, he rose to the rank of Director of Data Processing.

I chose to be at home raising our two daughters and was actively involved with PTA, school activities, Camp Fire Girls leadership, church, and an International Sorority. While my daughters were in elementary grades, I returned to college to finish my degree, graduation with my BA in Liberal Arts and Secondary Teaching Credential from Cal State Bakersfield (CSUB) as a "late bloomer" in 1979. It was another time of governmental



"cutbacks" and few teaching positions were available. McFarland High School was then a part of Kern High School District and the McFarland community chose to unify their schools in 1980. Positions opened when many of the teachers left McFarland to remain with KHUSD. I accepted a position at McFarland High School thinking I would be there for a few years and then be able to find a position in Bakersfield. But I stayed in McFarland schools for 20 years, loving my students, the staff and my job. During that time I returned to college once again and earned my MA in Educational Administration from Cal Lutheran University, and my 1st Tier Administrative Credential from Fresno Pacific College, with plans for an administrative career. Political and social changes in the McFarland community prevented me from attaining that goal and I retired in 2000.

During the late 1980s my husband and I built a vacation home in the Tulare County mountains, not far from

Greenhorn Summit. We build a home large enough to accommodate our family of parents, two married daughters and their families, and we all spent many happy times there. In 1998 my husband and I decided that we were not willing to support two homes and moved to our beloved mountain home full time. We followed that move with lots of travel in an RV, making several trips to the East coast, visiting the NASCAR home ground and racetracks. We were (and I still am) huge fans of local NASCAR race driver, Kevin Harvick.

In 2007, we faced some health issues and needed to be closer to medical facilities. We sold our mountain home and followed our youngest daughter and her family to Tehachapi where we fell in love with the mountains again. Our daughter and son-in-law had settled in Alpine Forest Park, and we found adjoining acreage and planned to spend the rest of our retirement in mountain bliss. That was not to be.

*(continued on page 7)*

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR WOMEN NEWS

Your Scholarship Fund for Women Board is hard at work getting ready for scholarship awards for this spring. We are also very thankful for the generosity of the whole Branch by holding the Sunshine Boys fundraiser this month. Every penny donated for scholarships gets into the hands of a local student because the Fund Trustees generously cover all the administrative costs.

Not many nonprofits can say that!

Thank you to these recent donors to the Fund:

- \* Tammy Engel - \$1500
- \* Dan and Janice Armstrong - \$200
- \* Eddith Hinkle - \$200.

See you at the Sunshine Boys!!

- Janice Hagen Armstrong  
For the Scholarship Fund  
for Women  
Board of Trustees

## AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED!

It is once again time for the AAUW Theater Party and Auction at the Beekay on Feb. 5, 2012. We are asking for auction items that can be sold at either the silent or regular auction. Both new and gently used items are welcome. This effort helps raise money for local scholarships. Your support of this event either through the purchase of tickets, contribution of items for the auctions or by involvement in the auction at the event help us provide even more scholarships to local students.

If you wish to contribute an item please contact Marian Stephens by phone at 822-8969 or email [mbscds@msn.com](mailto:mbscds@msn.com) so your item may be included.

Marian Stephens  
Auction Chair

## Bits and Pieces

### Did You Know We're On Facebook?

Catch all the happenings with the first, and best, AAUW online branch in Facebook. Get news and information delivered straight to your inbox or profile! "Friend" [AAUW California Online on Facebook](#) now!



**Online? Use the Two-Minute Activist to conveniently make your voice heard in Congress!**

This great tool is located on the AAUW National website at [capwiz.com/aauw/home/](http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/)

You can access AAUW issues or you can state your opinion through the AAUW website.



### AAUW California 2012 Convention!



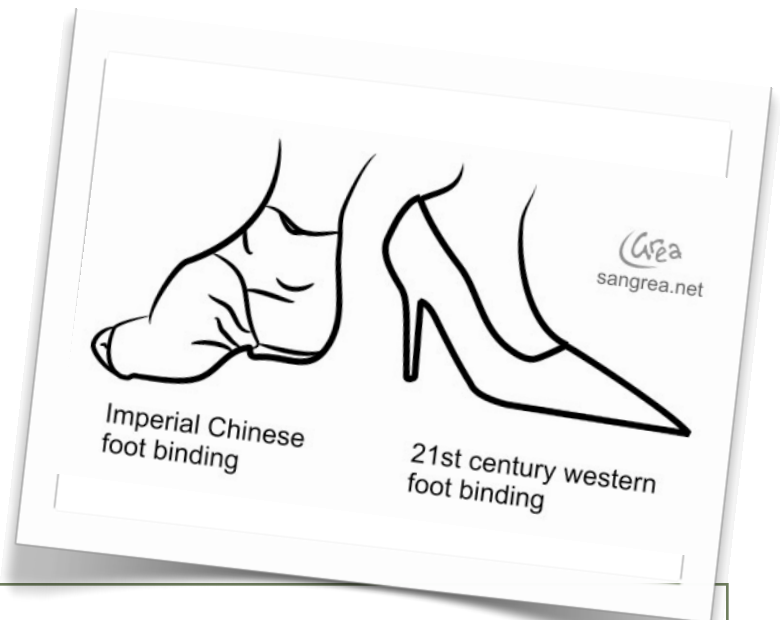
**April 13-15, 2012**  
**Santa Clara Marriott Hotel**  
2700 Mission College Blvd  
Santa Clara

\$99 per room rate will be available when registration begins see <http://www.aauw-ca.org> for more info

**New member bio** - continued from page 5

My husband was diagnosed with small cell lung cancer in 2009 and suffered with the cruel disease until June 2011.

Living in Tehachapi for only four years I really have not had the opportunity to get involved with many activities or to meet many people. I have always been a "joiner" and been actively involved with many organizations. The offer for membership in AAUW offers a new opportunity for me to continue to support the importance of education for women.



## Public Policy

- Bitsy Keller

### Your voice was heard! You helped protect women's access to contraceptive services!

After reviewing more than 200,000 comments from the public -- many of them from AAUW Action Network members like you! -- the Obama administration announced earlier today that almost all employers will have to include coverage for women's preventive health services, including contraceptive services, starting in August 2012. This is a victory for women's health, and would not have happened without our raising our collective and persuasive voice.

AAUW applauds the administration for releasing this rule, and is relieved the administration worked to protect women's rights to access preventive care including contraceptive services. This decision means that women's preventive services will be covered without co-pay or cost-sharing. As the Institute of Medicine put it when proposing what should be covered, "Positioning preventive care as the foundation of the U.S. health care system is critical to ensuring Americans' health and well-being. Women particularly stand to benefit from additional preventive health services." AAUW couldn't agree more.

### About AAUW's California Online Branch

The California Online Branch is a branch of the American Association of University Women that began in 2001 as an experiment in establishing a "virtual" community. As with all AAUW branches, we are dedicated to promoting AAUW's mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

For the first few years of the branch's life, we held our meetings and conducted business in chat-room meetings, but in the Spring of 2005 shifted towards holding discussions through email listservs instead, allowing busy people to choose the time that best suits them to read and respond to emails.

Although we are technically a California branch of AAUW, a number of our members are from other states as well. The beauty of an online environment is the absence of geographical barriers in defining membership.

So we welcome anyone with an associate, equivalent or higher degree (minimum membership requirement of AAUW) who is interested in discussing AAUW policy issues, participating in action projects to further AAUW's mission goals, and getting to know a diverse group of people from across the state and country.

If you are trying to access the California State AAUW website, please go to: [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org).

## THE BREEZE

*AAUW Tehachapi Mountain Branch*

Post Office Box 273, Tehachapi, CA 93581

---

### Help Fight Sexual Assault in the Military!

---

#### Support the Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention (STOP) Act

**19,000.** That's an estimate of how many sexual assaults occurred in the military in 2011.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, who recently called this number a "stain on the honor of the armed forces," indicated that although there were 3,191 reported incidents, the stigma of reporting sexual assault is so high that 19,000 is a better reflection of the truth.

Help fight the scourge of sexual assault in the military by asking your member of the House of Representatives to cosponsor the Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention (STOP) Act (H.R. 3435)!

Stronger rules and better enforcement are critical to the health and safety of the men and women in our nation's armed forces. The STOP Act would create and empower a civilian sexual assault oversight council, establish protocols to protect victims, and create tools and resources to help reduce sexual assault. Ensuring adequate investigation and support is a first step toward eliminating the stigma of reporting sexual assault and fighting its prevalence in the military. We must help protect the troops who protect us.

AAUW is committed to improving the way the military deals with sexual assault by ensuring victims receive adequate support for their case. That's why we are helping support a group of veteran and active duty servicemen and servicewomen who are suing the Department of Defense (DoD) who allege that the DoD failed to investigate or prosecute their cases.

To send a message asking your asking your members of the House of Representatives to cosponsor the STOP Act (H.R. 3435), visit [AAUW Two-Minute Activist \(http://bit.ly/55Ljd\)](http://bit.ly/55Ljd).