

# The Rose Branch

A PUBLICATION OF AAUW SANTA ROSA

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MARCH 2009

EDITOR  
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## AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ADVANCES EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.

## AAUW VISION STATEMENT

AAUW WILL BE A POWERFUL ADVOCATE AND VISIBLE LEADER IN EQUITY AND EDUCATION THROUGH RESEARCH, PHILANTHROPY AND MEASURABLE CHANGE IN CRITICAL AREAS IMPACTING THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS.

## AAUW VALUE PROMISE

BY JOINING AAUW, WE BELONG TO A COMMUNITY THAT BREAKS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC BARRIERS SO THAT ALL WOMEN HAVE A FAIR CHANCE.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	2
AAUW-CA Convention	2
New Member	3
Letter from Scholarship Recipient	3
Global Community Action	3
Thank you – Crab Feed	3
International Women's Day	4
EF International Fellowships	4
A Powerful Noise AAUW & CARE	4
Calendar	5
Annual Bridge Luncheon	5
Thank you – Living Room	5
Kudos to Suzanne	6

## WOMEN TAKING THE LEAD TO SAVE OUR PLANET

### GENERAL MEETING FEATURING LILITH ROGERS

LILITH ROGERS WILL IMPERSONATE RACHEL CARSON, MARINE BIOLOGIST AND NATURE WRITER WHOSE WRITINGS ARE CREDITED WITH ADVANCING THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT



Courtesy of www.Noaa.Gov

RACHEL CARSON (1907–1967)

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009

TIME: 1:00 PM

WHERE: THE SONOMA COUNTY CHAPTER  
AMERICAN RED CROSS

5297 AERO DRIVE\*  
SANTA ROSA 95403

RSVP: LILLIAN SHELAN 577-0477  
BY MARCH 23

*We have much to accomplish before we can feel assured of passing on to the future generations a land as richly endowed in natural wealth as the one we live in.*

RACHEL CARSON

\*OFF AIRPORT BOULEVARD AND OLD REDWOOD HIGHWAY

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP: AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS (AA) DEGREE OR ITS EQUIVALENT.



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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
"IN CELEBRATION OF  
WOMEN"**

We have many opportunities during the month of March to Celebrate Women. First, though, AAUW applauds President Barack Obama for signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which restores the long-standing interpretation of civil rights laws and EEOC policies that allow employees to challenge any discriminatory paycheck they receive. We are especially pleased that this measure is the first bill passed by Congress and signed by our new president, sending a strong message that economic issues and pay equity are a top priority. (See photo above)

In addition to this historic event, during March we celebrate both International Women's Day on March 5 and Women's History Month – Wow! What a great opportunity for our branch to come together in Celebration. Please mark your calendar for two program opportunities. On March 5 AAUW and CARE have partnered to present *A Powerful Noise* at theaters throughout the United States. It is a documentary that takes you inside the lives of women to witness their daily challenges. (Please see page 4 to learn more about this event.)

Also for Women's History month our Program Committee has put together an outstanding presentation on March 25, *Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet*. You will have an opportunity to see Lilith Rogers impersonate Rachel Carson

who is the founder of the contemporary environmental movement and is the iconic model of the theme. You will also have an opportunity to meet women in our community whose lives have shown exceptional vision and leadership on environmental issues. I would like to thank Arlene Mandell, Colleen Wilson, and Sue Finan for organizing this event and Joyce Adams and the Red Cross for providing the meeting facility.

A BIG thank you is also in order for the fantastic Crab Feed on February 6 that raised scholarship funds for deserving women attending Sonoma State University. We all applaud the team that made it possible: Joan Dickerson, Marcy Clausen, Linda Trodden, and their dedicated committee. Be sure to read the most inspiring letter from one of SSU's past scholarship recipients on page 3 of the newsletter. We will be developing a *Global Community Action Project* in an effort to help collect books to send to South Africa. I know you will be moved to help after you read the letter.

I hope to see you at our upcoming programs in March; we have much to celebrate as women!

Most Sincerely, *Marianne*

**CATCH THE WAVE  
AT AAUW-CA  
CONVENTION 2009**

Plans are underway for our 88<sup>th</sup> Annual AAUW California Convention

**MISSION IN MOTION**

"Riding the Waves of Change"

April 24 – 26, 2009

Hilton San Diego Mission Valley  
901 Camino del Rio South  
San Diego, California

Early registration is currently underway. Don't miss out on these great savings! Go to [WWW.AAUW-CA.ORG](http://WWW.AAUW-CA.ORG) or check your latest issue of *California Perspective* for more information or to register.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW  
MEMBER  
ELIZABETH (LIZ)  
ACOSTA

Liz Acosta has lived on Wine-maker Way, on a former vineyard in Windsor, for the past eight years. She holds a B.A. in Social Work from UC Santa Cruz, an M.A. in Sociology from San Jose State, and is licensed as a Clinical Social Worker.

Though she still does some consulting work, Liz has made a dramatic career switch. She is currently the Elections Manager for Sonoma County, overseeing local, state and federal elections, from her office in downtown Santa Rosa.

She enjoys reading, hiking and traveling, and is an active volunteer, tutoring and counseling women. She decided to join AAUW because of our educational focus, especially our support of women reentering the workforce and Tech Trek.

*Arlene L. Mandell*  
Membership Assistant

LETTER FROM FORMER SSU  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Dear AAUW,

Sanibonasri! (Greetings in Siswati) Hello from an old scholarship recipient from Sonoma State University. I started at SSU in 1997 and graduated in 2002 with a degree in Biology. I was a heptathlete, on the Student Athlete Committee and helped found Rotaract. Then I went for my teaching credential at San Diego State and taught Biology to English language learners and then started a successful Medical Academy at Mount Miguel High School in Spring Valley.

Well, in my scholarship application I believe I wrote down that besides teaching Spanish speak-

ers, I was going to join the Peace Corps. I've done it! Actually, for 6 months now I've been "doing it." I was afraid life plans with someone would hold me back (like my boyfriend who asked me to marry him, but didn't want kids), but I let him go and chose to follow my true heart to Africa!

I live in a deep rural village called ISteenbok in the Province of Mpumalanga, South Africa. I'm here teaching Grade 7 English at two schools, buying shoes for the shoeless learners (orphans due to HIV, unemployment and general under-development in the black rural areas). Post apartheid schools struggle with the lack of toilet paper, water to cook for the learners (they get "pap"—porridge-like mashed potatoes), and library books.

The good news is that "Gender Equity" is taught from the textbooks at the primary schools. However, it was needed because women were 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizens for so long. Women used to get raped while collecting firewood and couldn't tell their husbands due to their culture. If you opened your door and let a man into your house, there was no such thing as rape. In some cultures here (Venda), the women eat what's left after the husband and children eat. Now though, women run this country! They have a baby on their backs, parcels on their heads and cut firewood. They work and do correspondence courses (because there is not one university in the whole province of Mpumalarga—shame to the president!). Women have been saved from some rape by electricity! Now if we could get running water! We had our first cholera scare from Zimbabwe—luckily it was negative—but ish!

Well I have to run back to class; if you know anyone who needs a global community service project, or knows how to get discounted shipping for donated books (maybe the military?), please let me know. I'll be here until Sept, 2010 (after the World Cup). I also know of a guesthouse with 12 rooms that's not booked yet, if anyone is coming for the World Cup.

Thanks again for contributing to my education and therefore career.  
*Jessica Wright* wrighjes@yahoo.com



SYBIL LUDINGTON (n.d.) Known as the "female Paul Revere" in the Revolutionary War of 1776.

GLOBAL COMMUNITY  
ACTION PROJECT

If you or someone you know I would like to help Jessica Wright, former SSU scholarship recipient and currently in the Peace Corps in South Africa, please contact Marianne Holt, 527-6797, or Lucy Foster, 538-3507. Our Santa Rosa Branch hopes to collect several picture books to send to her for her primary grade English classes. We are also on the lookout for a low-cost way to send the books.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

THANK YOU FOR  
SUPPORTING SONOMA  
STATE SCHOLARSHIPS  
CRAB FEED A SUCCESS!

The Annual AAUW Crab Feed was a huge success—and SOLD OUT at over 90 guests. The crab was exquisitely delicious and the whole meal excellent.

We made close to \$2000 profit. Proceeds provide scholarships for women at Sonoma State University. One of the current recipients, Yudith Vargas, attended and told us she will graduate next year with her degree in nursing. A former recipient; Jessica Wright, a 2002 graduate now serving in the Peace Corps in South Africa, sent a letter and photos of the children she teaches. This is AAUW money in action, assisting women to pursue a college education and career and make a difference in the lives of others. Our support for their education has a lasting impact!

(Continued on Page 6)

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2009

International recognition of Women's Day 2009 will be a world wide affair! It is commemorated on March 8 this year and involves a global celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women.

AAUW has made note of this day with celebrations and particular attention to our International Scholarship programs (See the AAUW Annual Report for 2009 that says that our International Fellowship awards totaled 66.) We have also attempted to increase our presence at the United Nations in regard to issues that affect women.

Our previous association with IFUW has ceased, so we are also working with CARE (see adjacent article) and other internationally oriented organizations to help women and girls. There is an attempt to form a Women's Graduate Group that will be able to apply for membership in IFUW. Their next conference will be in Cancun, Mexico this year.

Contact me for information regarding our International efforts.

*Gerry Carleton, International Issues*

## EF INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDED

International Fellowships are awarded for full-time graduate or postgraduate study or research to women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Supplemental grants may be given to support community-based projects in the Fellow's home country.

Patience Tusingwire is an International Fellowship recipient from Uganda. She was the eldest in a family of four children who were orphaned when Patience was twelve years old. As the eldest, she became responsible for her siblings and their education. At times, the family missed school because they

didn't have money to both eat and attend school. In 2004, Patience earned her law degree at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. In 2005, she passed the equivalent of the Bar Exam and practiced law in Kampala before receiving her AAUW grant and coming to the University of San Francisco in 2008.

Patience is studying for a Master's Degree with a focus on International Business Transactions and International Human Rights. This spring, one of her classes will be on human rights, and she will be writing a paper focusing on the rights of women and the girl child and their responsibilities in the community at all levels. She will be presenting the paper at the UN headquarters in New York in March when the Commission on the Status of Women is meeting.

Patience truly appreciates her AAUW Fellowship and is grateful for the opportunity it affords her to pursue her interest in human rights, especially for women and girls. She believes that for women to be independent and productive, they must enjoy their right to education and economic empowerment. Her Master's Program will provide her with the skills to formulate and implement legal policies to economically empower women in her home country.

*Sharon Westafer, Fellow's Scheduler  
AAUW Research and Projects Grants*



Courtesy of <http://publicdomainclip-art>

Gertrude Caroline Ederle (October 23, 1905–November 30, 2003) was an American competitive swimmer. In 1926, she became the first woman to swim across the English Channel.

## CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH AAUW AND CARE THROUGH A POWERFUL NOISE!

AAUW-CARE  
A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP

CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. AAUW supports and partners with CARE's work to improve gender equality in basic education and reduce cultural and economic barriers to girls' education in countries around the world.

Through AAUW's and CARE's partnership, AAUW encourages you to join with CARE ([www.care.org](http://www.care.org)) and more than 120,000 people gathering in 400 theaters across the United States to celebrate International Women's Day 2009.

On the evening of **March 5**, CARE is hosting an unprecedented one-night event featuring the theatrical premiere of "A Powerful Noise." This documentary film follows three extraordinary women – in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mali and Vietnam – as they overcome gender barriers to spark change in their societies and achieve significant victories over poverty, oppression and ethnic strife. Many AAUW members and branches across the country have an opportunity to partner with CARE in the release of the documentary to promote education and advocacy efforts in your communities.

Theaters in your area showing the documentary, *A Powerful Noise*, include: San Francisco Century 9; Walnut Creek Theater 14; San Jose: East Ridge Mall 13, Oakridge 20, and Cineart Santa Ana Row 6. To learn more about the film, or for theater and ticket information, visit [www.apowerfulnoise.org](http://www.apowerfulnoise.org)

Why not get a group of your AAUW friends together and plan on participating in this powerful and exciting event.

SPECIAL INTEREST  
GROUPS BRANCH  
CALENDAR

MARCH 2009

Mar. 4 1:00 PM The Board will meet at the home of Marianne Holt, 1775 Brandee Court, 527-6797. All Branch members are welcome to attend.

Mar. 9 1:30 PM The Monday Afternoon Book Group will meet at the home of Jean Hanks, 4865 Bridle Trail, 539-6145, to discuss *Any Human Heart* by William Boyd. Jean Hanks will moderate.

Mar. 11 7:30 PM The Evening Book Group will meet at the home of Marianne Holt, 1775 Brandee Court, 527-6797, to discuss *Water For Elephants* by Sarah Gruen.

Mar. 17 9:30 AM The Third Tuesday Morning Book Group will meet at the home of Carol Dean, 6349 Stone Bridge Rd, 538-5125, to discuss *The God Delusion* by R. Dawkins, Delia Nistler will moderate.

Mar. 18 9:30 AM Global issues will meet at the home of Gail Ellestad, 2540 Grosse Avenue (be prepared to walk up stairs), 546-0562, to discuss Great Decisions Topic 2, "Afghanistan and Pakistan."

Mar. 18 5:30 PM The Working Women's Group will meet at John Ash, 4330 Barnes Road at River Road, 527-7687. RSVP to Trina Corson-Graham, 526-4982, corsongraham@sbcglobal.net

Mar. 19 1:00 PM The Gourmet Lunch Group will eat out at the SRJC Café on Seventh Street. For Reservations call Ruth Hucklebridge, 538-1096.

Mar. 25 1:00 PM The March program, *Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet*, will feature Lilith Rogers impersonating Rachel Carson, marine biologist and nature writer. Red Cross Office, 5297 Aero Drive, RSVP to Lillian Shelan, 577-0477, by March 23.

Mar. – If you are interested in participating in the Hiking Group during March, please call Phyllis Lowe, 573-1125, for dates and times.

THANK YOU FROM THE  
LIVING ROOM

A big thank you to our members and their families who donated clothing and toiletries to THE LIVING ROOM in December. All items were used in either Christmas gift bags or in our "store" (clients accumulate points for doing specific tasks and in turn are able to acquire gifts for their families).



SAVE THE DATE  
Sat. April 4, 2009

THE ANNUAL BRIDGE LUNCHEON

Raffle Donations:  
Homemade Food and Other Items  
Are Needed  
Call Colleen 566-0514

AAUW INTEREST  
GROUPS  
2008—2009

Global Issues ~ Gail Ellestad  
546-0562

Gourmet Luncheon ~ Ruth Hucklebridge 538-1096

Culture Vultures - Need Organizer

Let's Dine In ~ Need Organizer  
566-0514

Public Policy ~ Ginny Benson  
869-0303 & Liz Sasek 570-1564

Romancing the Vine ~ Colleen Wilson 566-0514

Tuesday Morning Book Club  
Sylvia Thorne 579-6789

Second Monday Book Group  
Sally Fee 539-7348

Wednesday Evening Book Club  
Colleen Wilson 566-0514

Walking-Hiking Group ~ Phyllis Lowe 573-1125

Working Women ~ Trina Corson-Graham 526-4982

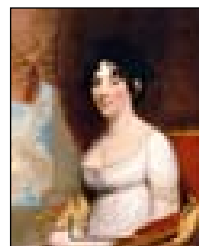
Writer's Circle ~ Arlene Mandell  
537-7562

AAUW Santa Rosa has many interest groups ~ something for everyone. Please join, add your talents and make new friends. Any questions please call Interest Sections Coordinator, Terry Howell 542-1135.

Our needs continue throughout the year, and if you have items to donate at any time please take them to THE LIVING ROOM, 626 Cherry St. (behind The Church of the Incarnation on Mendocino Ave.) Monday - Friday 8:30 AM 3:00 PM.

Again thanks to all who made donations.

Carole Keiner  
carolekeiner@att.net  
707-546-7745



DOLLEY PAYNE TODD MADISON (May 20, 1768 to July 12, 1849) wife of the fourth President. This portrait of Dolley Madison by Gilbert Stuart is now in the White House in Washington, DC.



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**KUDOS TO SUZANNE!**

AAUW Santa Rosa would like to recognize and thank Suzanne Karp-Graham for her kind and generous gift of time to our Santa Rosa Branch. Suzanne has helped to redesign our most attractive Santa Rosa Branch Brochure and developed an announcement inviting prospective members to our March 25 program, *Women Taking the Lead to Save the Planet*, which will appear in the Santa Rosa Mother's Club (SRMC) Newsletter. Our newly designed branch brochure was so popular at last year's State Convention that many other California Branches adopted its design—Kudos to Su-

zanne! The SRMC ad that Suzanne developed also was the basis for the front cover of this issue of our Rose Branch Newsletter announcing the upcoming March program. All of us in the Santa Rosa Branch sincerely thank Suzanne for her help. Suzanne is the sister-in-law of our Membership VP, Trina Corson-Graham. Many thanks to Trina as well for teaming up with Suzanne to help enhance our Santa Rosa Branch.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING  
SONOMA STATE SCHOLARSHIPS  
CRAB FEED A SUCCESS!  
(CONTINUED)

Many thanks to the volunteers who made brownies, set tables, prepared food, cleared up and other important jobs: June Brown, Gerry Carleton, Geri Clark, Jerry Clausen, Tom Clausen, Bob Dickerson, Gail Ellestad, Lucy Foster, Kathy Frishberg, Terry Howell, Ruth Hucklebridge, Judy Hudson, Phyllis Lowe, Nina and Phillip Lowell, Iris

Sabelman, Linda Trodden, Dorothy White, Colleen Wilson, Betty Workman, Sharon Wright, Dottie and Richard Zieber.

Thanks also to the donors for the raffle - members Terry Howell, Marcy Clausen, Iris Sabelman, Lillian Shelan, Marsha Vas Dupre, and community members - Jim Famini, Betty Kelly of Wine Country Chocolates, Sixth Street Playhouse, Rialto Cinemas, The Girl and the Fig, McCormick and Kuleto's Seafood Restaurant, The Red Lobster and Macy's SR Plaza. Several members also donated wine. A special thank you to AAUW member Erin Carlstrom Pellitier, Esq., for the silent auction gift of \$500 for legal services at Anderson and Le, LLP.

The food was wonderful and the mood festive and fun. Everyone had a good time for a great cause. See you next year!!

*Marcy Clausen, Linda Trodden and Joan Dickerson, AAUW Crab Feed Committee*  
(Linda is also Chairperson of the SSU Scholarship Committee.)