

Monterey Peninsula

# MESSENGER

Volume 61 Issue 4

Monterey Peninsula Branch

March-April 2014



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**AAUW Salinas & Monterey Peninsula Branches**

**Celebrate Women's History Month with a  
presentation by the  
Legacy Players of The Western Stage**

**"Alma Spreckels: An Extraordinary  
Woman"  
Act Two**

**Studio Theatre, Hartnell College  
411 Central Avenue, Salinas 93901  
Performing Arts Building**

**Saturday, March 29, 2014**

Officer Slate

Membership

CA State Parks

Gourmet Planning

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## BOOK GROUPS

### Morning Books

Mon, Mar 17, 10 AM

*And the Mountains Echoed*

by Khalid Hosseini

Leader: Valda Fletcher

Mon, Apr 21, 10 AM

at 11:30 a.m.

**(Luncheon served on the Main Theatre Stage)**

**Parking is available in the lot between the swimming pool and tennis courts on West Alisal and in the Parking Structure on Central Avenue.**

The Legacy Players, a group of veteran actors who have graced the many stages of Monterey County, have gathered together to investigate material with roles expressly written for elder actors. It was founded in 2005 by the Western Stage of Hartnell College and maintains a core group of twelve actors and two staff members. The Legacy Players maintain a repertory that is shared with the community through a series of readings for non-profit organizations through-out the county.

Harvey Landa serves as the moderator for the Legacy Players. Harvey is a playwright and stage director and was the Executive Director of the Western Stage until his retirement in 2000.

**Box Lunch catered by Agustin Rodriquez  
Chef at Steinbeck House  
Turkey and Avocado Wrap, Salad, Cookie and  
Drink**

**Vegetarian available upon request  
(Write selection in memo on check)**

**Luncheon Reservations Required  
Mail your check for \$20.00 made payable to AAUW,  
Salinas Branch  
to Sally Miller, 22625 Oak Canyon Road, Salinas  
93908-9692  
no later than Monday, March 24, 2014. Space is  
limited.**

**Questions: contact Sally at 455-9106**

(for more about Big Alma, see *Big Alma* book info  
below)

**April Branch Meeting**

*Grapes of Wrath*

by John Steinbeck

Leader: Christy Yarr

### Afternoon Books

Tues, Mar 11, 2 PM

*The Greater Journey*

by David McCullough

Host: Carolyn Smith

RSVP: [stacaro@aol.com](mailto:stacaro@aol.com)

Tues, Apr 8, 2 PM

*Saturday*

by Ian McEwan

Host: Cathy Rossing

RSVP: [little54cat@aol.com](mailto:little54cat@aol.com)

### Evening Books

Tues, Mar 18, 7 PM

*My Beloved World*

by Sonia Sotomayor

Hostess: Marge Simmons

Leader: Jacqi Davis

Tues, Apr 15, 7 PM

*Pastors Wives*

by Lisa Takeichi

Hostess: Pat Fletcher

Leader: Christy Yarr

## Faces of Islam

**Speaker: Jean Brenner**

**Date: Saturday, April 19, 2014**

**Time: 11:30 AM**

**Place: Carmel Valley Manor, West Parlor  
8545 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel**

**Price: \$20.00 per person**

Our speaker, Jean Brenner, turned life experiences into art. Studying at Stanford University and the Sorbonne in Paris, she has established herself most significantly with her jewelry and her photographs. Through her frequent travels to distant lands, Jean will share her Islamic depictions of an exotic culture and universal concept of women, using her camera to create understanding. Her slides show her deep compassion for her subjects and her dedication to diversity.

Lunch Menu: Chicken Taco Salad. (Vegetarian option available), Ice Cream and Cookies

Send check payable to AAUW/MPB to Carolyn Smith, P.O. Box 958, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.

**Deadline: Wednesday, April 16, 2014**

### Notes from the State Meeting: AAUW CA rationale for a dues increase

**Important - please read.**

For the past several years, the state organization has had to dip into reserves to the tune of \$30-40,000. That is unsustainable. Dues have not been raised in 10 years, but now is the time. Here are the reasons for voting to increase the dues now.

CA AAUW provides crucial support, including oversight, fiduciary and legal structure, especially for

## The AAUW-MPB Website

Have you checked out our new website yet? The website address is <http://mpbca.aauw.net/>

(click the address to try it). We suggest you include the new website in your Bookmarks listings for quick and easy access. Take a tour of the new website and enjoy! Please note that the old website address will not take you to the new site.

### BOARD MEETINGS

March 6

April 3

4:00 PM

Monterey City Library

Trek, Financial Literacy (\$tart \$mart), and Leader on loan.

Cost containment provisions include: conventions every other year, state board reduction in size from 36, move of the state office into a facility shared with other non-profits(with a shared meeting room and attached kitchen), & e-mailing of the CA Perspective. (One can still opt to receive a hard copy, but electronic mailing is significantly less costly.)

We must pass this with a 60% vote in favor. When you receive, via e-mail, your PIN to vote, please be sure that you do so.

Thanks,

Sharyn Siebert



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When writing this column, I often resort to "pleases" and "thanks". This month it is mostly thanks. First, to all of you who have offered support and encouragement to my husband, Alan and me, we really appreciate all your support and concern. We appreciate all of you. AAUW members quickly become friends and it is so comforting to know I can rely on this support group in a crisis. For all of you who are wondering what this is all about, Al is currently undergoing chemotherapy and so far the prognosis looks good. A number of board members have pitched in to help make our branch run smoothly. I am so grateful to you all.

## OFFICERS

**President:**  
Susan Murphy

**Finance VP:**  
Nancy Soule

**Membership VPs:**  
Miriam Lilley  
Sharyn Siebert

**Secretary:**  
Fatima Dias

## OFFICER SLATE for 2014/2016

At our April meeting, we will be voting for the officers for the next two years. Thank you to the nominating committee for their many phone calls to put together the following nominees:

**Co-Presidents:**

Sharyn Siebert and Miriam Lilley

**Membership Vice-Presidents:**

Pat Gotch and Nancy Edwards

**Treasurer:**  
Nancy Soule

**Co-Secretary:**

The nominating committee under the leadership of Miriam Lilley has worked hard to ensure the leadership of our Branch remains strong. Thanks to all the members of the committee and to all who agreed to take Board positions for the 2014-15 year. I will retire from the Board knowing our future is in excellent hands.

Thanks to Tama Olver for an absolutely outstanding talk of climate change. We are fortunate to have such a talented membership to draw on. We raised \$120 for Tech Trek from the 50/50 raffle. Congratulations to Sandy Grimmer who had the lucky ticket.

In conclusion, please think what you personally can do to advance the goals and mission statement of AAUW.

*Susan Murphy*

## PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW supports the Family and Medical Insurance Act which would create a national insurance program funded by employees and employers contributions.

National also agrees with some of the State of the Union stated by President Obama such as his spotlighting that women earn 77cents for every \$1 a man earns, raising minimum wage for Federal contractors, and taking action to improve the immigration system.

President Obama has set up a task force on the Culture of Rape on College Campuses as 1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted during college.

AAUW of New York recently sponsored an event with

Elaine Williams and  
Kathleen Fischer

Thank you to all of you for  
volunteering your time and  
energy to lead our  
branch. Also thank you to  
those who have agreed to  
serve on the board as  
directors.

**Program:**

Fatima Dias with Mary  
Conway and Kathleen Wall  
on her committee

**Legal Advocacy Fund:**

Jane Cross

**Local Scholarship:**

Pat Fletcher

**Public Policy:**

Lucy Campen

**Newsletter Editor:**

Ann Donaldson

N.Y. Senator Gillebrand to promote paid leave.

Lucy Campen  
Public Policy Chair

## March Romancing the Coast



**Friday, March 28**

### **Ag Tour and Talk**

Claudia Pizarro-Villalobos is the Sales Specialist for D'Arrigo Bros in Salinas. She will lead us to one of their coolers and show us one of the fields. We will have lunch at 12:00 at Gino's Italian Restaurant at 1410 So. Main, Salinas (west of the Nob Hill shopping center at Blanco)

We will carpool from the Monterey Whole Foods side parking lot at 9:15 that morning. At 10:00 we will meet Claudia in the D'Arrigo lobby at their headquarters, located at 21777 Harris Road (close to T&A) From Hwy 68 take Spreckels Blvd. through the small city of Spreckels (Spreckels Blvd. turns into Harris Road) and passed T&A . D'Arrigo's is the large Spanish style building on the right hand side of the road. We will park in the front of the main entrance with the flagpole and enter the lobby.

Reservations needed by March 19

Sandy Grimmer  
[smcdgrim@aol.com](mailto:smcdgrim@aol.com)  
375-9275

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We are delighted to  
welcome three new  
members to our branch:

**Carla Plymesser**  
1649 Bennington Court  
Salinas, CA 93906  
831-596-5374  
[carlaply@aol.com](mailto:carlaply@aol.com)

**Veronica McKenna**  
8 Middle Canyon Way  
Salinas, CA 93906

831-659-9620

**Claudia Luhrs**  
937 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950  
[ccluhrs@gmail.com](mailto:ccluhrs@gmail.com)  
505-264-4603

If you know of anyone interested in joining AAUW, please contact Sharyn or Miriam.

Sharyn Siebert  
831-622-0425  
[sharynsiebert@comcast.net](mailto:sharynsiebert@comcast.net)

Miriam Lilley  
831-324-0636  
[miriam@smlilley.net](mailto:miriam@smlilley.net)

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

Kathleen Wall - Use the 920 number in the directory.

Rose Mary Ullman -- new email: [rmuartleo@att.net](mailto:rmuartleo@att.net)

Judy Dudley  
8017 River Pl.,  
Carmel Valley, CA 93923  
(831)624-8017

## April Romancing the Coast



**Saturday, April 26**

Upscale Resale. It's good for the ECONOMY. It's good for the EARTH. This is a direct follow up to our MPB AAUW general Meeting on Sustainability by Tama Olver.

Meet at 10 AM in front of Joining Hands Resale Shop on Carmel Rancho Blvd. Plenty of free parking in the Carmel Rancho Shopping Center near "Bank Corner", (Fremont Bank, Union Bank and Chase.) We will peruse 5 or 6 upscale ways to recycle. Bring your reusable shopping bags, cash or credit card, or your steadfast restraint. Next time, you can come back with your "stuff" to donate.

Lunch at Lafayette's the quite new and very French Bakery in the Barnyard. Eat inside or out. Bread (and more) to buy and take home too. Call Nancy Iversen 455-8229.

## Local Scholarships: Let the fun begin!

March 21 - April 20 will be a busy time as we evaluate our scholarship applications from both CSUMB and





## COMMEMORATING 150 YEARS CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

1864-2014

President Abraham Lincoln signed the Congressional bill dedicating federal land, "useless for agriculture or commerce," to the state of California. Much later, this was reversed and became Yosemite Nat'l Park.

### Save the Date: Gourmet Dinners



The planning event for next season's gourmet dinner group will held, as usual, the first Friday in June, June 6th at 6 pm. at the home of Sandy & Dick Grimmer. More information to follow in our next newsletter.

MPC for our eight \$2,000 scholarships. Meeting the hardworking and deserving students is so inspiring! If you would like to be involved, please contact Pat Fletcher at [pletcher\\_ca@yahoo.com](mailto:pletcher_ca@yahoo.com) or 324-4118. We are looking for a committee of about four for each school who will select our semi-finalists at a 3-4 hour meeting and then also interview the finalists/make our decisions. The meeting times will be scheduled to work with the times the committee members are available.

And even before we select our scholars this year, we start to raise funds for NEXT year... We will also helping serve the community by staffing our polling place in PG for the Tuesday, June 3 election. We raise at least \$850 from each election. If you are able to work a 3-4 hour shift at the election, please contact Tama Olver at [tamaolver@gmail.com](mailto:tamaolver@gmail.com) or 869-2748.

## TIDBITS

Did you know that.....

**Karen and Wayne Snow** will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on March 17th at sea.

**Caroline Bazzani and Kay Morris** were both "Art Angels" in Florence in 1966 helping to save rare and valuable books during the 1966 flood.

**Donna Pribble** appeared in an interview in the recent PBS special on The Carolands, a historic house recently renovated in Hillsborough.

**Yo Mastuda** will once again be displaying her award winning quilts at the Good Ole Day's show in early April in Pacific Grove.

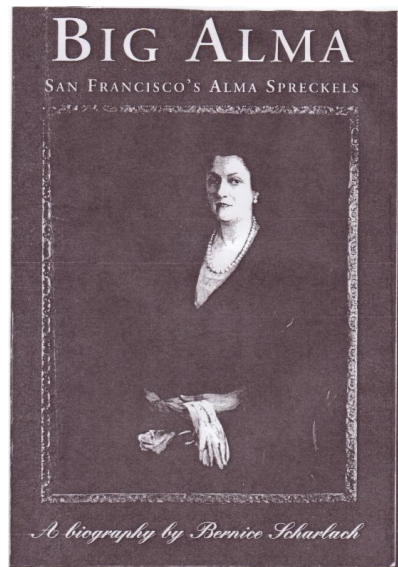
A number of AAUW members were seen recently listening to English mystery author Anne Perry speak on her work as a benefit for the Pacific Grove Friends



of the Library. Spotted in the audience were Pat Gotch, Carol Young, Lucy Campen, Susan Murphy and Betty Sproule among others.

**Kathryn Gaultieri**, author of three mystery books set in Carmel will be the speaker at The Friends of Harrison Memorial Library's annual tea on March 16th at 2:00 at the Church of the Wayfarer in Carmel. A check for \$19,000 will also be presented to the library. The money is from the proceeds of their annual book sale which occurs in August. The event is free and open to the public. Thanks to all of our AAUW members who work on the sale, donate books and shop at the sale. Have extra books? The Friends collect, sort and price books every Tuesday morning from 10-12 in the lower parking lot of Sunset Center across from the Yoga Center.

## BIG ALMA - the book



Bernice Scharlach's sparkling biography of the beautiful, outrageous woman who was born on a farm in the Sunset District, scandalized San Francisco society, became an artists' model, posed for the statue at the top of the column in Union Square, who married Adolph Spreckels, befriended European royalty, brought the works of Auguste Rodin to America and built the Palace of the Legion of Honor to hold them, who lived in the grandest house in San Francisco, who fought two World Wars, invented the Garage Sale, and at age 57 chartered a plane and eloped with a cowboy.

**With 80 photographs**

"IF YOU HAVEN'T READ THIS BOOK, YOU'RE MISSING  
A BIG PIECE OF SAN FRANCISCO'S HISTORY"

—ADAIR LARA, *SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE*

"Of the famous eccentrics who have enriched San Francisco's rambunctious reputation, not one was more flamboyant or long-lived than Alma de Bretteville Spreckels. She was a wonder, from her youthful adventures as a delectable artists' model through the uproarious last of her 87 years. We are lucky to have Bernice Scharlach's biography of that stand-back-here-I-come woman who loved to express herself by giving money to causes and institutions and by shocking society and her family.

Truly this biography is the next best thing  
to being in Alma's dynamic presence."

—JAMES S. HOLLIDAY

Director Emeritus, California Historical Society  
Author of *The World Rushed In: The California  
Gold Rush Experience* (Simon & Schuster)



ISBN 0-942087-11-9

## May - June Messenger

Send articles for the May-June newsletter to

Ann Donaldson at [ann@wjdonaldson.com](mailto:ann@wjdonaldson.com) by April  
15.