



# The Branch



Humboldt Branch AAUW

## ***February Branch Meeting***

Saturday, February 2, 2019

**Red Lion Hotel Dining Room**

**1929 4th Street, Eureka**

11:00 a.m. Registration, Social and Lunch

Chicken Masala, Herb Rice, Green Salad, Sliced Seasonal Fruit Tray

Cost: \$20 (Beverage only: \$6.00)

### **Program: Cultural challenges resulting from Middle Eastern Migration w/ Tom Gage**

Most of us have limited understanding of cultural differences beyond what we read or see on TV. Tom will discuss his experiences living in Arabic speaking countries. What are the challenges as recent refugees and immigrants try to integrate into European-based cultures? Will they choose fundamentalism or adaptation? How has it been working in the U.S.? How will humanity adapt?

**If your caller has not reached you by Tuesday, January 26, please contact Maggie Gordon by phone or email.**

**It is our Branch policy that if you make a reservation, you will be expected to pay for your meal whether you attend or not.**



## The Branch

The Humboldt Branch of AAUW publishes *The Branch* eight times each year

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Submissions welcome: deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month

### AAUW's Mission

*AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.* AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political.

## President's Message

Happy New Year! Any resolutions? Mine is to remember what I resolved to do last year.... and to be a nicer person. Don't laugh. I can do this!

The Board of Directors met recently, and here are some of the highlights from that meeting:

1. **Budget:** The budget committee will meet in January to prepare our 2019-2020 budget in time for the board to approve it, and in time for its publication in *The Branch* prior to our May annual meeting. Remember, our new bylaws require that members approve the budget at May annual meeting instead of in September, as in the past.
2. **Board Nominations:** Katy Garrison is the chair of the nominating committee. Again, the nominations for the four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) will need to be published in the *Branch* prior to our May annual meeting.
3. **Human Trafficking:** The board approved our branches' continued participation in the Star Network, a locally based community group dedicated to helping victims of human trafficking. Autumn Chapman will be our liaison with the Star Network.
4. **Scholarship Committee:** Maggie Gordon is the new chair of the scholarship committee. The board voted to continue our policy of awarding scholarships to women who are re-entering college after a minimum of a 5-year break in education. The board discussed creative ways to get the word out about our scholarships, since we did not get a single application prior to our initial scholarship deadline. Some great ideas were generated, and the Scholarship Committee will be working on them.
5. **Scholarship Funds:** The Holiday Gala, while raising over \$2,300 (and a having rollicking good time) will not cover much in terms of future scholarships. This year we awarded a total of \$3,000 in scholarships, so it is obvious that this pattern is not sustainable. New funding ideas were discussed, and the Scholarship Committee will be working on them.
6. **History Tea Honorees:** Two History Tea honorees were selected. At this time they have not been contacted to accept our award, so the revelation of their names will have to wait until next month.
7. **History Tea Event:** Maggie Gordon is looking for hostesses for our History Tea in March. Please consider getting out your lovely table settings and hosting a table.
8. **New Member Packet:** Katy Garrison has put together a wonderful new member packet, so our new members will have much more information about AAUW.
9. **Tech Trek:** There are some new requirements for our Tech Trek committee members to follow. Dorothy Skjonsby has been working diligently to keep our branch in compliance. Good job, Dorothy!
10. **Woman-to-Woman:** In April we will have another Woman-to-

Woman meeting. Our guest speaker will be Ravi Singleton. Ravi is an Indian woman who spent her childhood in Thailand. There will be more information on this meeting in the future.

11. Monthly Meeting Venues: It was decided to hold most of our monthly meetings at the Red Lion. The Red Lion has worked well for us with great technology for our speakers and affordable costs for the meals.

Those of us who attended our December Holiday Gala had a wonderful time. We raised money for the future scholarships and met one of the two recipients. The second recipient we will meet at our February meeting. I want thank Adair Paul and her committee for another great event. It takes a lot of work getting our donations ready for our auction. Those who did not attend may want to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund. Currently, only those who attend the Holiday Gala fund our Branch scholarships. We really should have the full membership of the Branch fund them. Please consider sending a donation to our Scholarship Fund. We need everyone's support to make this project work!!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our February 2nd meeting! Nancy Kay, Humboldt Branch President



### **Our February Speaker: Tom Gage**

Instructor in OLLI of 50-classes and three decades at HSU, Tom Gage was Fulbright senior scholar in 1983-84 at the University of Aleppo, Syria. Since the 1950s, his travels have taken him to every nation bordering the Mediterranean, but two. He has taught in China on three occasions, researched a semester in India, directed the Aegean School of Classical Studies in Paros, Greece, and spent three years as dean of a summer academic program in Europe.

From 2010 to 2015, he served as Co-Chair of the Youth Platform Committee, of the Gülen Institute's International High School Student Writing Contest, University of Houston. During its tenure, essay winners from some 36 nations and 24 states of the US were brought to Congress for awards. These amounted to over 200 from around the world, including the Philippines, Korea, Singapore, Qatar, Tanzania, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Sweden, Bolivia, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, and in nearly every year a student from Burkina Faso. This Houston-based program evolved out of Tom's and now Humboldt's superintendent Chris Hartley's implementation of "Cross-cultural Fluency" then at Six Rivers High School in Arcata. That seven-year innovation teamed classroom students' work here and there, there including China, Morocco, Egypt, Bali, and Yobe, Nigeria.

Tom was one of the founders of what became the National Writing Project, having worked for decades with its founder the late Jim Gray. Gage founded Humboldt's Redwood Writing Project and was a principal founder of his department's Masters in the Teaching of Writing. His work in China, with the County Board of Humboldt Board of Supervisors, the late Anna Sparks, led to the China Studies major and the major in International Studies. On retirement, he was awarded a certificate of appreciation for dedication to International Programs at HSU.

Tom has written 5 books. His essays since retirement have been published in seven books by others, including a chapter in *Ottoman Mosaic: Exploring Models for Peace by Re-Exploring the Past*, co-dited by Kemal Karpat & Yetkin Yıldırım (Seattle, WA: Cune Press, 2010). His work has appeared in English, Turkish, and Spanish.

## 2018 Holiday Gala



Our gala was a big success and we raised money for next year's scholarships with our raffle. The young woman in the photo below, holding her certificate, is Chanté Catt. Pictured with her, left to right, are Eleanor Gayner, Rosemarie Weaver, and Nancy Kay. The other recipient, Jamie Carroll, was in Brazil.

Chanté Catt is currently focusing on her Master's in Social Work. She has been active in many community service projects, including the HSU Homeless Student Advocacy Alliance, and she currently works as the Off-Campus Housing Liaison. (a note from Chanté appears below)

Jamie Carroll is working on her BA in International Studies: Third World Development. She plans to eventually pursue a Master's in Project Management--projects that improve the lives of people and their communities. She will attend our February meeting.



### Dearest American Association of University Women Humboldt Branch,

It is with my warmest regard I thank you for awarding me the generous Women's Re-Entry Scholarship. The award offered me piece of mind, in a time that could have thrown me off my educational goals. The Scholarship provided security not only to myself, my daughter, but our community as I continued in the work I feel so passionately about.


The morning of the Holiday Gala & Raffle, my daughter and I drove through a rainbow coming down the freeway to meet you all. We knew it would be the start of a special new beginning. We even won a rainbow of art supplies from tickets we were gifted, as to not feel left out. We use the art set almost daily! I enjoyed the brunch even though my daughter was a bit of a handful. Thank you for understanding what it's like to be a mother or care provider. I felt embarrassed at the time that she was acting out. But know our life is in such a transition. In the end I felt loved and supported by the women at AAUW Humboldt. I want to offer my gifts of the Head, Heart, and Hands, if ever they are needed.

Thankfully, Chanté Marie Catt



### South Bay School Geo Bee

The center photo includes the 3 finalists, with the winner, Ethan Alburo in the middle. The lower one is of Ethan alone, the second year in a row that he's won it at South Bay. The group photo is of all the finalists. According to Ellie Gayner, our coordinator, it was one of the best bees she has attended



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### Geo Quiz

Answers on page 5

1. Magyars are the largest ethnic group in a Central European country that borders Slovakia. Name this country: a. Ukraine b. Hungary c. Czech Republic
2. Name the mountain range that extends more than 1000 miles from Kazakhstan's northern borders to the Arctic? a. Ural Mountains b. Pamirs c. Altai Mountains
3. Popcatépetl is to Mexico what Stromboli is to WHAT? a. Russia b. Italy c. Ethiopia
4. The Gobi is the main physical feature in the southern half of a region known also as the homeland of Genghis Khan. Name this region. a. Mongolia b. Xinjiang Province c. Heilongjiang Province
5. Which of the following is not a state in Australia? a. Queensland b. New South Wales c. New Brunswick



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## February is Red Envelope Month

I encourage all of you to attend our February Branch meeting. You will have the opportunity to meet one of our HSU Scholarship recipients and one of the girls we sent to Tech Trek. **More importantly, you will receive your red envelope.** This will keep the postage cost down for the expenses we incur for the funds we need to send girls to camp. If you should happen to have your checkbook with you it will enable you to make your donation and not have to send it back with your stamp.

If you are unable to attend you will have a red envelope and an invitation to tea sent to you the first part of February. Please check your mailbox!! We have renewed our Branch's commitment to the AAUW Tech Trek/Math and Science Camp at Sonoma State. We have been sending 13 year old girls to this camp since 1999. This will be our 19<sup>th</sup> year of participation. We have sent over 40 girls to this camp. I find it pretty amazing that we have accomplished this so successfully as we are the most Northern California AAUW Branch. Every contribution makes a difference in the lives of girls going into 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

I hope you all had a chance to read the wonderful letters the girls wrote in thanks for providing this program to them. This year our hardworking committee is Gail Freeman, Margaret Wallace, Shelley Mitchell, Marilyn Hagar, Nancy Dean, and Dorothy Skjonsby.

You will find all the information on your invitation and how you may participate. This does not require you to buy anything, go anywhere, hire a limo driver, or any other such exotic thing. We will have more information for you at the meeting and we look forward to a successful, easy fundraiser. Your contributions can be mailed to our treasurer. Just make your checks out to AAUW CA SPF and on the memo line write Sonoma Camp.

**THIS YEAR WE HAVE THE SAME DEADLINE SO  
BE SURE YOUR CHECK IS IN THE MAIL BY  
FEBRUARY 22ND!!!**



Thank you very much in advance,  
Your Tech Trek Committee

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