**AAUW Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch**

**Monthly Board Meeting – January 13, 2015**

Shadow Hills Cabaña, 1001 El Capitan Drive, Danville

Attended by: Mary Ellen Blake, Marian Bliss, Tena Gallagher, Robin Halloran, Carol Kennedy, Judy Lauper, Marilyn Lawver, Soni Leighton, Mary Mix, Kate Reed, Caroline Sanchez, Marcia Steinhardt, and Liz Williams.

The meeting was called to order by Mary Ellen Blake at 9:32am.

The December minutes were approved as emailed.

**HHT:** Marilyn and Anna presented preliminary figures with some bills outstanding. Marilyn requested outstanding bills with a copy be sent to her via Mary Ellen.

* Anna gave a comparison of the 2013 & 2014 HHTs, noting last year we sold 748 tickets and this year, 525. The key difference in number this year likely is the rainstorm.
* 12 Tech Trek families helped.
* Planning for next year’s HHT is underway. Anna recommended:
  + We have a separate home selection committee that identifies homes now
  + We identify adequate volunteer leaders
  + We have a head shuttle docent

In the ensuing discussion of future HHTs, we noted that 4 houses, rather than the 5 as previously, worked. Competition from other groups’ HHTs will be less, as the Junior League will not hold one next year.

**AAUW Funds:** Carol reminded us that the Funds year is the calendar year, so numbers are unofficial at this point. Approximately $37,000 has been donated this year, with $10,000 of this going to other Funds. There is only $27,000 remaining to fully fund our named Scholarship. Our members have donated $5700 to our own Fellowship. A Named Gifts Honorees Committee is underway. This will be to honor folks who go beyond what is expected from a branch member.

**Programs:**

**Follow-Up to Orange is the New Black:** Judy reports that 20 spots are available for the opportunity to go into and tour the Federal Women’s Correctional Facility. This tour will take place on Mar. 17th starting at 9 a.m. Security clearances are required, so all attendees must have their paperwork submitted by Mar. 1.

**GoldiBlox:** A speaker from GoldiBlox will address us on Thursday, Jan. 15th in the Veteran’s Hall, Danville. Details from the company are lacking, but the program will commence after Mary Ellen’s short meeting. Refreshments will be served after the approximately 1 hour presentation.

**New Members’ Welcome:** Tena will hostess this for new members to meet several board members and learn about AAUW activities and opportunities. This will be an appetizer and dessert casual event, starting at 6 p.m.

**EYH:** On schedule for Feb. 28th.

**March:** Caroline and Asha are working on the Mar. 7th program, and have moved onto their second alternative, which are 4 speakers from 4 countries. If anyone knows a woman who would be a good speaker, do contact Caroline. No specific money is assigned to this program, but the branch does have sufficient funds to cover basic costs. The use of Danville Ranch would be $50.

**Art Contest:** We wish to support our membership, were reminded that we may vote 1 time per day for up to 5 or 6 submissions. Holly requested the information by 1/15 for The Advocate.

**Tech Trek:** Work on this year’s TT is 90% complete. We have our reservations, but the money is not due until March. Helga is stepping down and will train new leaders. Liz has a person who is willing to be a “co-.” Judy would step in IF someone would like to take over Programs.

**Scholarships:** We are allocated 8 slots for Tech Trk and have requested 12. In the past, we have divided HHT proceeds evenly between Local Scholarships and TT.

Liz moved to divide the HHT proceeds evenly between Tech Trek and Scholarships.

Robin seconded. The motion passed.

Each scholarship has been $1,000; the board needs to approve the number and amount of these. Discussion followed. Mary Ellen will follow-up with Marilyn for final dollar amount. Mary and Marsha will recommend the number of scholarships to the board based on this.

**Garden Tour:** Mary Ellen reported for Roseann. Roseann will be the coordinator for all positions. Noel Minion volunteered to be the refreshment coordinator. Kathy is working on garden selection. Holly, Karen and Gerry are working on ticketing. Mary Ellen is doing the garden descriptions. Mary Gonzales will do publicity. Kathie Hixon will be one garden’s head docent. Marian Bliss will be photographer.

Several positions are still open: docent coordinator, individual garden head docents,

administrator, restaurant recruiter, head shuttle docent, and sign coordinator.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of docents needed, whether to have baskets and whether we need a boutique coordinator.

**Appreciation Party:** The party is scheduled for May 28th at Mary Mix’s if the re-landscaping is completed. Otherwise, Marcia’s daughter will hostess the party. This is for memberships only, not partners and spouses. Discussion is underway with potential catering firms. We discussed whether installation ought to be moved from June 11th to this event, and decided not to move it.

**Name Tags:** Robin, Soni, & Kathy are working on new name tags. They are considering types as well as whether each member would keep her own vs. a designated person maintaining the tags. The board will receive a recommendation regarding type and disposition at the Mar. meeting.

**Fundraising:** Anna led a discussion of ideas for fundraising, possibly to replace HHT. Carol brought a list, but most will not raise the same amount of money as HHT. Thus, discussion focused on ideas to improve HHT. Among these are:

1) A central place for both refreshments and a boutique. This offers the potential of better traffic and crowd control plus the possibility of expanding the number of boutique vendors. It also might allow us to raise the percentage we charge the vendors.

2) A different way of securing homes for the tour. Might we locate these through local builders?

The discussion highlighted that: 1) we are too late to change to another, major fund raiser for 2015; 2) we need homes identified by the end of Mar; 3) we need a leader for the house search; 4) HHT could benefit from co-chairs

**Website:** Mary Ellen gave us a review of our website. It includes redesigned drop-down menus and side-bars. For clarity, things have been re-named. Mary Ellen will be the web-site person in place of Teresa. Roseann will assist Mary Ellen.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 by Mary Ellen.