



## Marin Branch History Highlights

On March 20, 1932, 20 women, representing 12 universities, gathered at Dominican College and became original charter members.

### The First Fifty Years 1932 -1982

#### 1930s

1934 started with 83 active members

- 1935 -- Held first Discovery Dinner (in 1980, became awards luncheon)
- 1936 -- Founded Marin Motion Picture Council to preview and rate movies for families (later taken over by the PTA)
- 1937 -- Surveyed recreational facilities in Marin (for the Marin Conservation League)

#### 1940s

- 1940 -- Fusselman Library opened; named for AAUW member Ada Fusselman, College of Marin's Founding board member, president and longest-serving director (renamed Fusselman Hall in 1973)
- 1940 -- Surveyed Marin County Hospital plans, transportation needs, open space and education needs of returning veterans
- 1946 -- Established Cooperative Nursery School
- 1946 -- Began Creative Writing Workshop
- 1946 -- AAUW member Vera Schultz elected to Mill Valley City Council
- 1949 -- Mill Valley Branch formed with 63 members-Janet Breed Gavin, President (later renamed Southern Marin Branch)
- 1949 -- Creative Writing Workshop began weekly KTIM radio show

#### 1950s

Started with 200 members

- 1950 -- Conducted clothing drive for European refugees
- 1952 -- Led by AAUW member Janet Gavin, became major force in establishing educational TV station KQED; Mill Valley Branch was charter member
- 1952 -- Helped establish, landscape, equip and manage Pixie Place in Marin Art & Garden Center (now called Pixie Park)
- 1957 -- Celebrated 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary –349 members and 15 sections

## 1960s

- 1960 -- Marin, Mill Valley and Petaluma branches hosted California State Convention at Bermuda Palms (!) and San Rafael High School
- 1962 -- Began year-long study of Marin's mental health facilities
- 1962 -- AAUW Program changed structurally to four major (2-year) study topics in Community, Education, Cultural Interests and World Problems
- 1963 -- Co-sponsored conference on "Marin and Its Future" at Dominican
- 1964 -- Novato Branch Formed
- 1966 -- Initiated College Faculty Program to help women over 35
- 1968 -- Three Marin branches jointly prepared shoplifting alert campaign which received TV coverage

## 1970s

Started with 362 members and 29 sections

- 1970 -- Marin Branches hosted State Spring Conference at San Anselmo's Theological Seminary
- 1970 -- AAUW member Jean Barnard elected to Mill Valley City Council
- 1970 -- Started scholarships at College of Marin for mature women
- 1971 -- 35 branches from 9 Bay Area counties met at Marin Art & Garden Center to analyze and advance legislative proposals to create Bay Area regional government
- 1971 -- AAUW member Frances Compton elected to College of Marin Board of Trustees, eventually serving three terms
- 1972 -- AAUW member Jean Barnard becomes Mayor of Mill Valley
- 1972 -- Sponsored Civic Center Day on workings of local government
- 1973 -- Members first listed in roster by their own first name, rather than by husband's name
- 1973 -- Served on ad hoc committee to form Marin County Status of Women's Commission
- 1973 -- Co-sponsored Marin Energy Conference
- 1974 -- Helped compile Marin history as part of San Rafael Centennial
- 1974 -- "Living with Less" study resulted in first Safety Information Fair
- 1976 -- Researched and presented paper on Nuclear Safeguards Initiative
- 1978 -- Southern Marin Branch sold refreshments as a fund-raiser at the first Mill Valley Film Festival
- 1978 -- AAUW member Joan Boessenecker elected to Mill Valley City Council
- 1978 -- Radio and recording industries honored Bill Gavin, honorary Southern Marin Branch member, at testimonial dinner at San Francisco Fairmont Hotel; proceeds completed Janet Breed Gavin AAUW Research and Project Grant Fund
- 1979 -- Established three-branch Network Marin for working members
- 1979 -- Third consecutive year a Marin Branch member received an AAUW Educational Foundation Project Grant
- 1979 -- Barter Network, established by Marin Branch members Lois Harmon and Sue Koegl, became a community resource

## 1980s

Started with 451 members and 40 interest sections

- 1980 -- AAUW Member Joan Boessenecker becomes Mayor of Mill Valley
- 1981 -- "Marin Salutes Vera Schultz" testimonial dinner, chaired by AAUW member Trubee Schock, established the American Fellowship Endowment in Vera's name
- 1982 -- AAUW Flora Praszker elected to Mill Valley City Council
- 1982 -- Marin Branch celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary—attended by charter members Adele Paterson and Dorothy Walsh

**The Next 25 years**  
**1982 – 2007**

- 1983 -- Members served on Local Arrangements Committee for Association Convention in San Francisco (which featured Elizabeth Dole, Donna Shalala and Mayor Diane Feinstein)
- 1984 -- AAUW member Alison Ruedy elected to Mill Valley City Council
- 1984 -- AAUW member Joan Boessenecker again Mayor of Mill Valley
- 1987 -- Co-founded Marin Women's Hall of Fame
- 1987 -- AAUW member Alison Ruedy becomes Mayor of Mill Valley
- 1988 -- Held "Career Days" for middle school girls, featuring careers in science and math; forerunner of later "Can-Do Days" events.
- 1989 -- Association voted to allow men members; four men joined locally
- 1989 -- Announced completion of Vera Schultz/Marin County Fellowship in crowd-filled Board of Supervisors chambers
- 1992 -- Co-sponsored Gender Bias in Schools seminar for educators
- 1994 -- Inaugurated first of seven "Can Do Days" so middle school girls could discover careers in math and science
- 1995 -- Celebrated the United Nations' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; co-sponsored symposium and re-enactment of 1945 Muir Woods ceremony
- 1995 -- Received \$4000 Educational Foundation Community Action Grant for 3-day workshop Gender/Ethnic Expectations and Student Achievement for Educators
- 1998 -- Held first Tech Trek summer camp at Stanford to interest middle school girls in science and math
- 200 -- AAUW member Joan Flood appointed Marin County Schools Volunteers coordinator after 19 years leading Branch volunteers at Bahia Vista School
- 2002 -- Created AAUW Marin Scholarship Fund to benefit College of Marin and Dominican University students; led by Mary Mossteller, Nancy Lubamersky and Georgia Schall
- 2002 -- Marin branches recognize the need to adjust to recent membership changes; formed leadership council to make recommendations
- 2003 -- Began talks of merging branches; Novato invited, but declined
- 2004 -- Published first three-branch newsletter
- 2005 -- Southern Marin Branch dissolved (for legal reasons) and members joined the Marin Branch
- 2006 -- Launched new website
- 2007 -- Celebrated 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with gala luncheon at Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael