

# Giving soles to souls to help Haiti

**O**UR THOUGHTS AND prayers have been with the people of Haiti since the devastating earthquake and over the past few weeks I've heard how folks have opened their hearts and donated in one way or another to help.

Alamo resident **Nancy Benvenuto** came across an organization called Soles4Souls. She explained to me that this organization collects gently worn shoes and distributes them to people in need worldwide.



**CATERINA MELLINGER**  
AROUND ALAMO

Since the earthquake in Haiti, Soles4Souls has begun collecting shoes for Haitians and has pledged to send 1 million pairs.

"I wanted to help, so I included a call for shoes of any size, (for any) gender or age through outlets such as my e-blog newsletter, my hiking groups, book club and bunco group," said Nancy, who is more than pleased with the response.

"I was happily overwhelmed with the amount of shoes and I think we may send a million pair of shoes from Alamo and Danville alone," she added.

Clean out your family's closets and call Nancy at 925-855-1955 for her to pick up shoes on your doorstep, or drop them off at her office during regular business hours in Danville at **J. Rockcliff Realtors**, 15 Railroad Ave., between Trader Joe's and Starbucks next to the post office. Visit the Soles4Souls Web site at [www.soles4souls.com](http://www.soles4souls.com).

**SCHOLARSHIP MONEY:** I spoke this week with **Tena Gallagher** of the American Association of University Women about the group's upcoming events — especially the scholarships the organization will distribute this year.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer scholarships to local women because of the wonderful support of community members who participated in our Holiday Home Tour," she said. "There were 653 guests who enjoyed touring lovely homes, and the result of this fundraiser is that AAUW will now be giving out generous scholarships."

Applicants must have graduated from high school in the San Ramon school district or lived here if the applicant went to a private high school. By September, they must be at least a junior in college, or a graduate student, at an accredited

four-year college.

Completed scholarship applications are due by April 5.

For details and application forms, go to [www.aauw-da.org](http://www.aauw-da.org), and click on "scholarships."

**TIME FOR YOUR CLOSE-UP:**

Have you ever pictured yourself onstage in front of a crowd? AAUW is holding open auditions for seasoned performers and novices alike for their upcoming production of "Voices Speak Out."

Auditions will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 6. For directions and details, e-mail [lgood67334@comcast.net](mailto:lgood67334@comcast.net).

Opening night is scheduled for April 23. Proceeds from the play will benefit the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. For details, call 925-820-9071.

**FEMALE PIONEERS:** On

Sunday, Feb. 21, the Contra Costa County Interbranch Council of AAUW along with the Contra Costa League of Women Voters and the Contra Costa Commission on Women will host a presentation about female pioneers in Contra Costa County.

The event will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. For details, go [www.aauw-da.org](http://www.aauw-da.org) Web site.

Have a great week.

Contact **Caterina Mellinger** at [aroundalamo@hotmail.com](mailto:aroundalamo@hotmail.com).

