

Donna Weisblatt **AAUW-MH President-Elect**

A passion for education, unlimited energy and the ability to focus have guided **Donna Weisblatt** to multiple careers in and related to education and ultimately to a master's and a doctorate degree in education. After teaching high school Spanish for several years, she made the move to educational research, administration, management and consulting in both the public and private sectors, while married and raising two children.

Donna and Mel's relationship started in junior high and progressed to dating while graduate students. Married after her first year of high school teaching, they moved from Cleveland to Phoenix in the late 70s and Donna began providing outplacement services to laid off professionals, later starting her own career consulting business which she owned until 1986. After relocating to San Jose, she was employed as an independent consultant for outplacement firms. According to Donna, she made her biggest career mistake with the purchase of an existing service business, which she managed for five years, finally returning to outplacement consulting with the economic decline.



Serving as a volunteer with SCORE, a nationwide small business association program, she advised individuals who wanted to start or grow an existing small business. She became an active volunteer with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of California Santa Cruz and later with the San Jose State University OLLI. After the SJSU program closed this summer, Donna took the lead in an effort to provide academic-level classes for adults 50+ at the Morgan Hill Centennial Recreation Center.

A stable childhood in a Cleveland, Ohio, family in which education was stressed surely shaped Donna's ability to achieve. One of five children who were never asked if they wanted to go to college but rather, which college, she says that all five earned degrees. Captain of an all star basketball team in high school, she continued to play until recent injuries curtailed this activity. Injuries haven't stopped her interest in seeing the world. She and Mel accompanied Peter and Elizabeth Mandel to Viet Nam in October.

"AAUW is a natural place for me to place my energy because it aligns with my belief in the value of education for all ages," states Donna.

Peggy Thompson, Editor