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AAUW

AAUW Marin Newsletter

September 2009

Publication of the Marin Branch of the
American Association of University Women.
*AAUW advances equity for women and girls
through advocacy, education, and research.*

Welcome Back!!

by Georgia Schall, Co-president

Summer is passing quickly and soon it will be time for reconnecting at our Fall Open House on September 12! I look forward to seeing you all!

Your 2009-2010 Board recently had their annual summer retreat! We fine tuned our goals, handled routine business, and broke into teams to brainstorm ways to better meet our board goal, "**Revitalizing our Branch**"! The team process will be in place throughout the year, looking at the survey to which about half of you responded, and working on our goals! Mary and I are fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and creative board! Stay tuned! In the meantime, you are promised:

- Continuing interest groups and possibly a few new ones as well!
- Continued mission work through our local scholarship program, Tech Trek (we're aiming to send "**5**" girls next year instead of 4) and middle school Math Science Achievement Awards.
- Great programming and events like our annual holiday party and auction December 5 (mark your calendars now) which benefits local college scholarships and Tech Trek!
- An updated website www.aauw-marin.org!

This is just the beginning for our new year so I invite you to get on board with your Board and help make "Revitalization of our Branch" a reality! Contact either Mary Mossteller or myself if you have questions or would like to get involved.



Co-president Georgia Schall with three new Marin Branch board members at the board retreat: Mary Gomes, Sony Adams-Walczak and Nancy Greenfield.

\$50 Book Passage gift certificate!

One of our goals this year is to add members and **you** can help by providing names of friends to whom we will send membership information, or by bringing friends to Open House. For each name and address of a qualified woman (bachelor's, AA or the equivalent) that you give me by September 12, and for every guest you bring to Open House September 12, your name will go into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to Book Passage: Contact Ann Ocheltree, Membership Vice President, ocheltreea@lucasvalley.net, or 415/479-3876

SURVEY SAYS! New Interest Groups Wanted

Results of the recent branch survey are in! You told us you would like to have a Travel Interest Group (sharing ideas, experiences, some pictures, etc.), and one on the topic of finances or a workshop on financial planning or finances for retirement. I am happy to help get either of these groups going so if you are one of those interested give me a call or an e-mail to discuss the possibilities. Susan Kemper, Interest Group VP, suskemper@earthlink.net -505-235-1130.

Other Ideas: theater buffs, international relations, literature, dinner club, wine tasting? Call Susan.

Branch Calendar/Interest Group Meetings: September 2009

- Sept 1 Tues BRIDGE AM.** Leader Bonnie Casassa, 457-6501.
- Sept 2 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
- Sept 4 Thurs GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
HIKING ADVENTURES. 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Section Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072, to confirm.
- Sept 7 Mon READING ARTS AM.** 10 AM. The group's first meeting is October 5. For October read *The Nine* by Jeffrey Toobin. Section Leader is Joan Hersko, 100 Thorndale Drive, Apt. 305, San Rafael, 492-2656.
- Sept 8 Tues CRAFTS.** Members work on personal craft projects including knitting, quilting, needlepoint, scrap booking, card-making, crocheting. Meets 1 to 4 PM. Section Leaders: Judy Ryan, 883-1028, and Mary Mossteller, 924-3096.
- Sept 9 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
LUNCH BUNCH. Meets for lunch at a different restaurant each month (members chose the restaurants). SLs Diana Brown, 453-3569, and Libby Byers, 453-2148.
AAUW: BEHIND THE HEADLINES. First meeting will be October 14. Call Jean Cox-Treverton, 492-8035, for details.
- Sept 10 Thurs GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
HIKING ADVENTURES. 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Call SL Dee Skore, 472-1072, to confirm..
- Sept 11 Fri PLAY READING.** 9:30 AM. Please call Chair Florence Garvie at 388-6825 if you would like to be a substitute for one of the ten members.
FRIDAY FRIENDS. 7:30 PM. Pot luck dinner at members' homes. Leader is Pat Williams, 472-0665.
- Sept 12 Sat AAUW ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE,** 10 AM to Noon, San Rafael Corporate Center, 750 Lindaro Street, San Rafael.
- Sept 14 Mon BRIDGE PM.** Ladies Duplicate. Leader is Pat Zentner, 453-5769.
- Sept 15 Tues DAY BOOKS.** 10 AM. At Section Leader is Natalie Whittlesey, 383-8638.
- Sept 16 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
JOAN B SINNA GROUP. 9:30 AM at home of Beatrice Tocher, 591 Appleberry Drive, San Rafael, 492-8424. Reach *Satan in Goray* by Isaac Singer. Section Leader is Dorothy Kilian, 924-2648.
FUTURES OF WOMEN. 7 PM. Read *Rebel in White Gloves* by Mariam Hover. **For location call** Section Leader Kathy McCaffrey, 492-1727.
- Sept 17 Thurs GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
HIKING ADVENTURES. 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Call Section Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072, to confirm.
BRIDGE AM. Leader Betty Jennings, 472-0359.
- Sept 18 Fri BOARD GAMES.** 7:00 PM, home of SL Ann Thomas, 42 Parkview Circle, Corte Madera, 924-9559.
- Sept 22 Tues MEET ME AT THE MOVIES.** Movie followed by critique & social time over coffee, wine, dessert or whatever at a nearby location. SLs are Susan Gilardi, 924-1793, and Mary Mossteller, 924-3096.
- Sept 23 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
READING ARTS PM. 7 PM. Read *The Great Influenza* by John M. Barry. Section Leaders are Ann Jessup, 461-6078, and Judy Ryan, 883-1028.
- Sept 24 Thurs GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
HIKING ADVENTURES. 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Call Section Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072, to confirm.
EVENING BOOKS. 7:30 PM. Read *Charles and Emma, the Darwins' Leap of Faith* by Deborah Heiligman. Call Section Leader Sharon Levien for details, 383-2135 or SLevien@aol.com.
- Sept 25 Fri POKER.** 7:30. Location to be decided. Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072.
BRIDGE. Evening Couples Duplicate. Section Leader Terry Gordon, 897-7692.
- Sept 30 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.

All AAUW members are welcome at sections (a couple are limited). Call the section leader to verify place and time or for information on any group in which you are interested.

Occasional Sections

AAUW: BEHIND THE HEADLINES. Contact Jean Cox-Treverton at 492-8035 for information.

COOKING LIGHT. Informal pot lucks emphasizing light cuisine, meets quarterly. Leader is Jeanne Lese, 492-8424.

WEEKENDERS. Saturday or Sunday hiking any weekend. Section Leader is Dee Skore, 472-1072.

ART INTEREST GROUP. This group plans visits to museums or art galleries, for example a special exhibit at the de Yong or Legion of Arts. Members carpool and pay for own admission and may have no host lunches at a nearby café. Call Section Leader Gerrie Young, 461-3222, to get on her email list for events.

October EF Luncheon

The annual Educational Foundation (EF) luncheon in honor of our EF Fellows and Grant Recipients studying in California. will be held October 25, 12 to 3 PM at the Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville. Cost is \$30 per person. If you are interested in attending with other Marin members, or would like more information, please contact EF VP Mary Gomes by October 7. Email marygomes@gmail.com or call 458-2828.

2009 Math Science Achievement Awards

by Joyce Erlenbach, Tech Trek/ Awards Chairperson

In 1992, Marin Branch initiated the Math Science Achievement Awards Program. Each of the middle schools in Southern and Central Marin is asked to nominate a graduating eighth grade girl who has excelled in her math and science studies during her middle school career. A certificate of achievement is prepared and sent to the school for presentation at graduation. This year, nine extremely talented young women were nominated by their teachers. We are proud to honor them for their achievements and wish them continuing success in their high school careers.

I am particularly delighted to note that two of our recipients also were selected last year to attend Tech Trek. Last fall, Maya Normandi and Mora Ouneklap delighted our Fall Open House with their descriptions of life at Tech Trek. I am so pleased to honor them again this year. This year's honorees are:

Gabrielle Rickley
Katie Charton
Mora Ouneklap
Marnie Ginis
Maya Normandi
Billie Mandelbaum
Callan Coghlan
Chloe Pfeiffer
Bronwyn Austin

Venetia Valley School
Miller Creek Middle School
Davidson Middle School
Hall Middle School
Lagunitas Middle School
Mill Valley Middle School
Del Mar Middle School
Kent Middle School
White Hill Middle School

AAUW Marin Scholarship Fund Fall Events

Welcome back to another year of fun and events to support our branch's AAUW Marin Scholarship Fund, the 501(c) (3) tax-deductible organization which provides funds to send middle school girls to Tech Trek summer camp at Stanford, and college scholarships to incredibly deserving women at College of Marin and Dominican University. (If you attended our May awards luncheon and heard Maria and Roxanne, you know what I mean by incredible!)

Our branch focuses fund-raising on the branch Scholarship Fund in the fall and calls on your generosity for the national AAUW's Educational Foundation (EF) and Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) in the spring. Our main sources of revenue for the Scholarship Fund are donations that come in response to the direct solicitation letter

mailed to all branch members in October, from our holiday gift-wrapping at Barnes & Noble in December, and from the silent auction at our holiday luncheon on December 5.

Start gathering those new or gently used items for the silent auction. If you live in central or northern Marin, call me (457-0862) and if you live in southern Marin, call auction co-chair Linda Noel (435-6356) and we'll pick up your donation.

Consider being on the Scholarship Fund Board. We only meet twice a year! Or, if you only have an hour or two to spare, help us send out the solicitation letter, collect or catalog items for the silent auction, or work at the auction. Contact me and let me know where your interest lies. Any involvement at all will be greatly appreciated.



Margie's Best of Show

The Winner is..

Congratulations to Margie Couvillon for her outstanding performance at the Marin County Fair. She entered four cakes and received three blue ribbons, with one entry also earning Best of Show for cakes. Her entries and prizes were:

- Creme de Menthe Chocolate Cake - 1st Place and Best of Show for cakes
- Brown Sugar Pecan Cake - 1st Place
- Mocha Rum Cake - 1st Place
- Coconut-Walnut Cake - 2nd Place

Hall of Fame

The Marin Women's Hall of Fame is accepting nominations for 2010 awards through November 1, 2009. If you would like to nominate someone you'll find the application online at www.marinwomenshalloffame.org or you can call 415/455-4900.

The Hall of Fame seeks women who demonstrate a variety of skills, interests, abilities, accomplishments, and particularly women who have addressed issues facing women and girls. Nominees must have lived and/or worked in Marin. They may be posthumous. Nominations can be made in a number of categories: arts, business & professional, community service, education, entertainment, environment, health and medicine, science, public affairs, religion and spirituality, social change, sports and recreation, technology.

Meet Me at the Movies:

current movie reviews by section members



by Susan Gilardi

For July, eight of us went to see Francis Ford Coppola's film *Tetro*. We loved it and definitely recommend this film. This is Coppola's venture into more personal and independent-type films. The story is somewhat autobiographical with the dominance of a strong, famous, emotionally cold father and the son who feels he can never measure up to the father's achievements. But that thematic synopsis does not do justice to this movie.

The cinematography is inspired. Filmed mostly in black and white with some flashback scenes in color, the movie uses light with astounding effect. Faces are often only partially illuminated – a slat of light across the young boy's eyes; the craggy features in bas relief of the dark, moody hero – and the camera lingers, lovingly, as we absorb the pain, conflict, love, compassion, anger, madness

that the character is experiencing. The whole picture is atmospheric with wonderful music. We can feel Argentina, where the movie takes place, the sensuality of its tango, the dazzling peaks of Patagonia, the dark, quiet streets, slightly menacing, and slow-paced life style, that allows the story to play out, perhaps somewhat inevitably at the end, but with plenty of dramatic tension to keep us enthralled throughout.

The family dynamic is intricate and painful, involving potent themes of love, power, parenting and death. There are conflicts, secrets, and destructive rivalry. But also scenes of love and tenderness and even humor: a puppy, sweet and uncomplicated, something everyone could love; the young man's sexual initiation – hilarious; Miranda's compassion, loyalty, strength. In fact, some of us thought Mirada stole the show.

We so enjoyed all the women characters. Coppola seems to love women and presents them in depth and variety. Miranda is luminous in all her scenes: intelligent, strong, sensitive, with a warm, radiant smile. There is a ditzzy "stripper" aunt who revels unapologetically in her sexuality, the young scheming femme fatal who causes great damage to a young man's psyche, an art critic with the power to make or break careers, and mothers, glamorous, doting, tragic and repentant. All the acting was great. Vincent Gallo gives a powerful performance as Tetro and Bennie's is a nuanced portrayal of the sweet, confused, mature and immature aspects of a disarming 18-year-old.

We liked parallels between father and son – graphically, even, the same broken leg – and the powerful, symbolic use of light and of dance. We only subtracted ½ point from a 5-star rating (our highest) because we felt the movie dragged a bit at the end. this film.

AAUW 2009 Association Convention

Effort to Drop Educational Requirement Fails; One Member/One Vote Passes Easily

At AAUW's 2009 biennial national convention, held in St. Louis, delegates turned down a proposal for open membership and approved a new "one member, one vote" system of voting in future conventions.

The open membership proposal would have dropped the educational requirement for membership in AAUW. This amendment allows further study into the question of open membership, and the "one member, one vote" system will give all members a chance to vote on the issue.

Delegates also approved by-laws of the AAUW Action Fund, which supports and advocates

for legislation, policies, and procedures related to women's equity and education. In other business, the delegates passed motions to increase the number of directors-at-large from seven to 10, while the number of appointed officers and directors dropped from six to three.

Bylaws Change

"One member, one vote" allows all AAUW members — not just those who attend the convention — the right to select leaders and vote on issues. It provides for vote timing flexibility. Under the bylaw change:

•At least 30 days before an election, the names and credentials of nominees will be pub-

lished for review by the entire membership.

•Voting materials for the election will be mailed to members, with information on ballot submission and deadlines (probably in the Spring/ Summer AAUW *Outlook*).

•Votes may be cast by paper ballot or online, with identification by member number.

