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AAUW

## AAUW Marin Newsletter

December 2009 - January 2010

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

### Branch Events Coming up!

#### Saturday, December 5, 2009

**Marin Branch holiday party**, luncheon and silent auction, at the Club Restaurant at McInnis Park in San Rafael. After lunch tables are set up for bridge and board games For information: Fran Hall, 435-6989.

#### November 27, 28 & December 18, 19, 20

**Gift wrapping** at Barnes & Noble. Branch members wrap gifts at the Town Center store for donations to the ranch scholarship fund. Shifts may all be filled by now but call Pat Hager, 388-6872, to volunteer.

#### Saturday, January 23, 2010

**Financially Fit for Life**, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., in the Community Room at the Town Center in Corte Madera. The topic of this first in a series of workshops promoting financial literacy for women will be “saving and investing in the current economic climate.” A flyer will be mailed to branch members in late December.

#### Late January, 2010

**Emerald City exhibit.** The branch art interest group plans an outing in January to the Asian Art Museum to see this exhibit which explores the rich but little known arts of Siam and Burma. Many of the 140 artworks, including gilded ritual vessels, mother-of-pearl inlaid furniture, colorful paintings, manuscripts, exquisite textiles, and delicate ceramics were recently acquired by the museum from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and are on display for the first time.

#### Saturday, February 20, 2010

**Tri-branch brunch.** The annual brunch and speaker event for members of Marin, Novato and Petaluma and their guests will be at the Club Restaurant at McInnis Park in San Rafael. College of Marin president Francis White will share her thoughts on the *Education Equity Gap in California*.



*Fran Hall, Chris O'Neill, Linda Noel and Mardi Leland help organize items for the branch holiday party, , silent auction, and bridge and board games afternoon. Members and guests are invited to the annual event, to be held Saturday, December 5 at the Club Restaurant at McInnis Park .*

### AAUW Marin Scholarship Fund

*by Chris O'Neill, Scholarship Chair*

If you haven't already done so, please send in your donation to the AAUW Marin Scholarship Fund in response to the letter you received in late October. Congratulations to Barbara Schmidt – the first person to send in a donation! All funds raised through this solicitation, as well as from the silent auction at the holiday party and donations received while gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble, go towards the scholarships to send middle school girls to Tech Trek summer camp and the annual scholarships to women at College of Marin and Dominican University.

Thank you to Linda Noel, Nancy Greenfield, Virginia Jones, Joyce Erlenbach, and Mary Gomes for their help in getting the letter in the mail to you. I couldn't have done it without them!

## Branch Calendar/Interest Groups: December 2009/January 2010

<b>Dec 1</b> <b>Jan 5</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>BRIDGE AM.</b> Leader Bonnie Casassa, 457-6501.
<b>Dec 2</b> <b>Jan 6</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>GOLF.</b> 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Group Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
<b>Dec 3</b> <b>Jan 7</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>GOLF.</b> 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542. <b>HIKING ADVENTURES.</b> 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Section Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072, to confirm. <b>BEHIND THE HEADLINES.</b> This group meets bi-monthly and this year is studying proposed health care legislation. No meeting in December. On January 7 meet at home of Pat Mahoney, 22 Broadview Drive, San Rafael, 205-5515. Group leader is Jean Cox-Treverton, 492-8035. <b>EVENING BOOKS.</b> Meeting changed to December 3 for annual holiday party. Bring a sweet or savory finger food and a book that you would give as a gift to share. RSVP to Pat Ernsberger, 15 Ryan Road, Mill Valley, 383-3921. Leader is Sharon Levien, 383-2135 or SLevien@aol.com. Group will be back to regular schedule in January.
<b>Dec 5</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>AAUW MARIN ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY.</b> 11 to 3, Club Restaurant at McInnis, San Rafael.
<b>Dec 7</b> <b>Jan 4</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>READING ARTS AM.</b> 10 AM. For December read <i>The White Tiger</i> by Aravind Adiga. For January read <i>The Spectator Bird</i> by Wallace Stegner. Leader is Joan Hersko, 100 Thorndale Drive, Apt. 305, San Rafael, 492-2656.
<b>Dec 8</b> <b>Jan 12</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>CRAFTS.</b> Members work on personal craft projects including knitting, quilting, needlepoint, scrap booking, card-making, crocheting. Meets 1 to 4 PM. Group Leaders: Judy Ryan, 883-1028, and Mary Mossteller, 924-3096.
<b>Dec 9</b> <b>Jan 13</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>GOLF.</b> 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542. <b>LUNCH BUNCH.</b> Meets for lunch at a different restaurant each month (members chose restaurants) Leaders are Diana Brown, 453-3569, and Libby Byers, 453-2148.
<b>Dec 10</b> <b>Jan 14</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>GOLF.</b> 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542. <b>HIKING ADVENTURES.</b> 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Call Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072, to confirm.
<b>Dec 11</b> <b>Jan 8</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>PLAY READING.</b> 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. <b>FRIDAY FRIENDS.</b> 7:30 PM. Pot luck dinner at members' homes.
<b>Dec 14</b> <b>Jan 11</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>BRIDGE PM.</b> Ladies Duplicate. Leader is Pat Zentner, 453-5769.
<b>Dec 15</b> <b>Jan 19</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>DAY BOOKS.</b> 10 AM. Meet at Cherie Sorokin's, 120 Geldert Drive, Tiburon, 789-5305 for pot luck and holiday book discussion. Call chair Natalie Whittlesey, 383-8638, to sign up for the pot luck.
<b>Dec 16</b> <b>Jan 20</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>GOLF.</b> 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542. <b>JOAN B SINNA GROUP.</b> Does not meet in December. On January 20 meet at 9:30 AM at home of Jeanne Lese, 64 El Pavo Real Circle, San Rafael, 492-8424. Read <i>Enemies: a Love Story</i> by Isaac Singer. Leader is Dorothy Kilian, 924-2648. <b>FUTURES OF WOMEN.</b> 7 PM. December 16, home of Chris O'Neill, 186 Riviera Drive, San Rafael, 457-0862, for annual holiday pot luck. Read <i>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society</i> by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. January 20, home of Joyce Erlenbach, 1740 Las Gallinas, San Rafael, 491-1542, and read <i>The 19th Wife</i> by David Ebershoff. Leader is Kathy McCaffrey, 492-1727. <b>READING ARTS PM.</b> 7 PM. Meeting changed from regular time for this month only. For December 16 read <i>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society</i> by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Group Leaders are Ann Jessup, 461-6078, and Judy Ryan, 883-1028.
<b>Dec 17</b> <b>Jan 21</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>GOLF.</b> 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Group Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542. <b>HIKING ADVENTURES.</b> 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Call Section Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072, to confirm. <b>BRIDGE AM.</b> Leader Betty Jennings, 472-0359.
<b>Dec 18</b> <b>Jan 15</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>BOARD GAMES.</b> This group does not meet in December. In January, meet at 7:00 PM, home of Pat Beigel, 854 Butternut Drive, San Rafael, 479-4850. Leader is Ann Thomas, 924-9559.
<b>Dec 22</b> <b>Jan 26</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>MEET ME AT THE MOVIES.</b> 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.
<b>Dec 23</b> <b>Jan 27</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>GOLF.</b> 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542. <b>READING ARTS PM.</b> 7 PM. Back to regular meeting time in January. Read <i>The Elegance of the Hedgehog</i> by Muriel Barbery. Group Leaders are Ann Jessup, 461-6078, and Judy Ryan, 883-1028.
<b>Jan 21</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>HIKING ADVENTURES.</b> 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Call Section Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072, to confirm.
<b>Jan 22</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>POKER.</b> 7:30. Location to be decided. Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072. <b>BRIDGE.</b> Evening Couples Duplicate. Section Leader Terry Gordon, 897-7692.

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.

## Reading & Study Groups Thrive

Marin Branch hosts a number of reading and study groups that give members an opportunity to discuss books or current topics with other women. New members are welcome in Marin Branch groups. Here is a sampling of what they are doing this year:

**Reading Arts AM.** Meets monthly on first Monday mornings, chaired by Joan Hersko. Reading: *The Nine* by Jeffrey Toobin, *The Story of Edgar Sawelle* by David Wroblewski, *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga, *The Spectator Bird* by Wallace Stegner, *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo* by Steig Larsson, *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See, *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, and *Run* by Ann Patchett.

**Day Books.** Meets on the third Tuesday, chaired by Natalie Whittlesey. One of the members reviews a book for the group at the monthly meetings.

**Joan B Sinna Group.** Meets on the third Wednesday morning and named after the founder. Chair is Dorothy Kilian. Reads the works of one author in depth each year and members are to come to meetings with at least one discussion question on the book for the month. This year reading works of Isaac Bashevis Singer: *Satan in Goray*, *The Slave*, *The Estate*, *Enemies: a Love Story*, *Shosha*, *Scum*, *The Certificate* and *Meshugah*.

### Behind the Headlines: Health Care Issues Study Group

This group, which meets alternate months on the first Thursday evening, began last year to study AAUW's own research papers, but has broadened its format. For the remainder of this year the group will study proposed health care legislation: what is covered and what is left out of the new legislation; the differences in coverage between the various proposed House and Senate bills. Interest group members research information that is available through various news and online sources. Our meetings share the information researched and discuss options that are presented. Meetings will be on January 7, March 4 and May 6. Leader is Jean Cox-Treverton, 492-8035.

**Futures of Woman.** Meets on the third Wednesday evening, chaired by Kathy McCaffrey. Reads and discusses books by or about women. This year's selections: *Rebels in White Gloves* by Mariam Hover, *The Birth of Venus* by Julia Child, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows, *The 19th Wife* by David Evershoff, *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout, *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, *Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky, *Bad Mother* by Ayelet Waldman and *The Little Giant of Aberdeen County* by Tiffany Baker.

**Reading Arts PM.** Usually meets on the fourth Wednesday evening of the month. This year's selections include: *When the Emperor was Divine* by Julie Otsuka, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows, *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery, *Divisadero* by Michael Ondaatje, *So Brave, Young and Handsome* by Leif Enger, *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Sara Houghteling.

**Evening Books.** Meets on the Fourth Thursday evening. Sharon Levien is Chair. Books are selected by members and so far this year have included *Charles and Emma, the Darwins' Leap of Faith* by Deborah Heiligman, *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen and *Dreamers of the Day* by Mary Doria Russell.

## Marin Branch Notes

### Board Looks to Future

The Branch Board has formed several subcommittees this year to study ways to improve branch operations and activities, and build membership. These are:

**Marketing/Communication Team,** chaired by president elect Cherie Sorokin, includes website, newsletter and publicity chairs. The new website is still being improved and Jeanne Lese is looking into ways to improve branch identification.

**Administrative Team,** chaired by co-presidents Mary Mossteller and Georgia Schall, includes the executive officers.

**Membership/Programming Team.** This group has been discussing ways to improve the fall open house for next year and develop branch programs.

**Misson/Funding/Activities Team.** This team is researching Speech Trek opportunities in Marin; Speech Trek is a new AAUW California outreach program for high school girls.

### Occasional Interest Groups

**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.** Visits museums or art galleries. Members carpool and pay for own admission and may have no host lunch at a nearby café. Call Leader Gerrie Young, 461-3222, to get on her email list.

**THEATER BUFFS.** Attends plays at local theatres followed by refreshments at nearby restaurant or café. Leader is Laura Paul, 491-1918.

**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.

## AAUW Funds Lunch



Marin Branch members attending the annual AAUW Fellows Luncheon were Georgia Schall, Pat Ernsberger, Dottie Burk, Chris O'Neill, Mary Gomes and Ann Ocheltree.

The Northern California AAUW Fellows Luncheon at Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville October 25 was an exciting event. More than 130 members, guests and fellows enjoyed a delicious salad luncheon with ample time to renewing friendship and acquaintances. Six Marin Branch members attended and met recipients of AAUW Fellowships.

After lunch, AAUW Funds Director Rozanne Child talked about the changes in structure that have led to the new term **AAUW Funds**, which encompasses what was formerly known as the Educational Foundation (EF), and also the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF), the Public Policy Fund, the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund and the Leadership Programs Fund.

- Mary Gomes

### Welcome New Member

**Mary Fran McCluskey** earned her B.S. in communications in 1970 and is currently a Tax-Enrolled Agent. She is playing golf and also joined Board Games. Her hobbies are guinea pigs, reading, languages, Spanish/Arabic, history, and art.

AAUW newsletter: contact  
Ann Thomas, 924-9559



## Meet Me at the Movies:

current movie reviews by section members

September's Movie: *Amreeka*  
October's Movie: *Coco Before Chanel*

by Susan Gilardi

Many immigrant movies feature the suffering, squalor, pain and painfully unjust conditions in which new immigrants find themselves in their new home. *Amreeka*, however, deals with the immigrant experience with humor, tender-heartedness and hopefulness despite the difficulties. The force of the movie comes from its heroine, the indomitable Muna, a Palestinian Christian single mother of a teenage son who comes to America's mid-West for the proverbial better life. Her character is so resilient, kind, considerate, generous, cheerful, funny that you find yourself wanting to invite her over for coffee and a good long chat. She's someone who could become a good and treasured friend. We watched her story with compassion, laughter, and affection.

We found this film to be well made and topical. It touches on how political turmoil can affect immigrants. Suddenly in the US, after 9/11, anyone of Middle East ethnicity is suspect and subject to virulent prejudice, which makes the acts of kindness in the movie all the more poignant. But the movie also reveals some of the tragedy of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. Life is not easy for Muna in either place. She is still an outsider, a minority in her own country because of her religion, a minority in America due to her race. However, her concern for her child's future, like that of so many immigrants, is what prompts Muna to leave for the USA.

She goes to live with a sister in Illinois where the movie exposes some of the impact of im-

migration on family issues. There is the normal teen angst of not fitting in, smoking dope, sneaking out, interracial dating. The cousins teach Muna's son what's cool and what's not and a little more. Muna's sister and brother-in-law are feeling the effects of post 9/11, economically, socially and emotionally. The cohesiveness of the family becomes somewhat frayed. But Muna never gives up. She bounces back from every setback and gaffe to win not only the hearts of those around her, but the audience as well. We gave this film 4+ stars out of 5.

In October we saw *Coco Before Chanel* and loved it. Thirteen of us attended and most of us gave the film 5 stars, our top rating! We just couldn't find anything wrong with it. Loved Audrey Tatou as Coco, the story was engaging and well filmed, the issues intriguing.

### SF AAUW Scholarship

The San Francisco AAUW branch will offer scholarships of \$2,000 each to help upper division and graduate school women complete their final year of study in an accredited college or university for the school year 2010-2011. Candidates must live or be attending a university or college within a 100-mile distance of San Francisco and be on track to complete their course of study by June 2011. There is no restriction on the use of the funds. Completed applications are due by March 1, 2010. If you are interested, or have friends or relatives who may benefit from the scholarship, please check the Silver Jubilee Fund information on the AAUW San Francisco website at [www.aauwssf.org](http://www.aauwssf.org).