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AAUW

AAUW Marin Newsletter

March 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.*

Events Coming Up!

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Celebrate International Women's Day with other AAUW members at ***Half the Sky Live***, a one-night-only event in theaters nationwide. Sponsored by CARE, an AAUW partner, *Half the Sky Live* was inspired by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Nicholas Kristof's and Sheryl WuDunn's bestseller, *Half The Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, stories of women around the world struggling to overcome oppression. The program includes music, commentary and a short film directed by Marisa Tomei.

The film will screen at 7:30 at the Regency on Smith Ranch Road and the Sequoia in Mill Valley. Members will attend both venues and, time permitting, meet for discussion after the film. Price is about \$12. So that we can save seats, please let us know if you are coming. If you plan to go to the Sequoia please inform Dottie Burk, dburk@pacific.edu or 246-9645. If you are going to Smith Ranch, please inform Mary Mossteller at mcmossteller@mac.com or 924-3096. Plan to arrive at least 20 minutes before the show starts

Saturday, May 22, 2010

Spring awards luncheon honoring branch members and branch scholarship recipients at College of Marin and Dominican University.

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

A docent-led tour of "Birth of Impressionism, Masterpieces from the Musee d'Orsay," nearly 100 works by the famous masters who called France their home during mid-to late-19th century. 9 AM at the de Young Museum. Details in a future newsletter.

Great Decisions Group

Starting

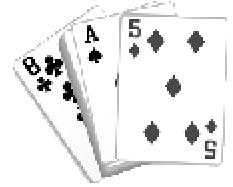


The Great Decisions program is a global affairs education/discussion program sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association. The topics the program will cover for 2010 include the following: special envoys, Kenya and R2P, global crime, U.S.-China security relations, global financial crisis, Russia and its neighbors, the Persian Gulf, peace-building and conflict resolution.

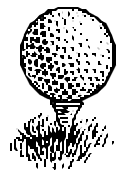
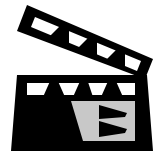
The focus of a Great Decisions discussion group is the critical examination of issues associated with the selected topics. Background information is provided in a briefing book prepared by Great Decisions. The briefing book provides historical background, current U.S. policy and alternative policy options, informative maps and detailed graphs, suggested readings and resources for each of the topics and cost \$18. Participants read the prepared material each month on the current topic before the meeting and then join together for discussion.

Anyone interested in being part of an AAUW Great Decisions discussion group, or wanting more information, should call Jean Cox-Treverton, 415-491-8035. The group would probably meet monthly but dates and meeting locations have not yet been planned.

Branch Calendar/Interest Groups: March 2010



- Mar 1 Mon READING ARTS AM.** 10 AM. Read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zukus. Leader is Joan Hersko, 100 Thorndale Drive, Apt. 305, San Rafael, 492-2656.
BOARD MEETING. 6 PM, place to be determined.
- Mar 2 Tues BRIDGE AM.** Leader Bonnie Casassa, 457-6501.
- Mar 3 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Group Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
- Mar 4 Thurs GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
HIKING ADVENTURES. 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Section Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072, to confirm.
HALF THE SKY LIVE. International Women's Day film event at either the Sequoia in Mill Valley or the Regency on Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael. See article on page 1.
BEHIND THE HEADLINES. The group will attend the *Half the Sky* event in celebration of International Women's Day. Otherwise this group is studying health care legislation and meets bi-monthly for discussion. Next meeting is May 6. Call Jean Cox-Treverton, 492-8035, for details.
- Mar 8 Mon BRIDGE PM.** Ladies Duplicate. Leader is Pat Zentner, 453-5769.
- Mar 9 Tues CRAFTS.** Members work on personal craft projects including knitting, quilting, needlepoint, scrap booking, card-making, crocheting. Meets 1 to 4 PM. Group Leader: Judy Ryan, 883-1028.
- Mar 10 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). Leaders are Diana Brown, 453-3569, and Libby Byers, 453-2148.
- Mar 11 Thurs GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Group Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
HIKING ADVENTURES. 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Call Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072, to confirm.
- Mar 12 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.
- Mar 16 Tues DAY BOOKS.** 10 AM. Leader is Natalie Whittlesey, 383-8638.
- Mar 17 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
JOAN B SINNA GROUP. 9:30 AM. Home of Charlotte Lucey, 84 Crestwood Drive, San Rafael, 453-3172. Reach *Scum* by Isaac Singer. Leader is Dorothy Kilian, 924-2648.
FUTURES OF WOMEN. 7 PM. Read *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. Group Leader is Kathy McCaffrey, 492-1727.
- Mar 18 Thurs GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Group 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.
- Mar 19 Fri BOARD GAMES.** 7:00 PM, home of Dottie Burk, 41 Bayview Terrace, Mill Valley, 383-4823. Social evening of games like Trivial Pursuit, Balderdash and Scrabble. Leader is Ann Thomas, 924-9559.
- Mar 23 Tues MEET ME AT THE MOVIES.** Movie followed by critique & social time over coffee, wine, dessert or whatever at a nearby location. Leaders are Susan Gilardi, 924-1793, and Mary Mossteller, 924-3096.
- Mar 24 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
READING ARTS PM. 7 PM. Read *So Brave, Young and Handsome* by Leif Enger. Group Leaders are Ann Jessup, 461-6078, and Judy Ryan, 883-1028.
- Mar 25 Thurs GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Group Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
EVENING BOOKS. 7:30 PM. Home of Sharon Levien, 801 Everest Court, Mill Valley, 383-2135. Read *Four Queens* by Nancy Goldstone. Please call if you need transportation or have an inquiry. Leader is Sharon Levien, 383-2135 or SLevien@aol.com.
HIKING ADVENTURES. 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Section Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072, to confirm.
- Mar 26 Fri POKER.** 7:30. Location to be decided. Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072.
BRIDGE. Evening Couples Duplicate. Section Leader Terry Gordon, 897-7692.
- Mar 31 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.



Occasional Sections (call for information on next meeting)

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

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 Young or Legion of Honor. 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Mary Mossteller
and Georgia Schall



This year, **one of our goals is to** grow and retain our membership in order to revitalize our Branch.

Key to this goal is to have vibrant active interest groups and to increase the number of programs we offer.

We particularly want to thank Dottie Burk who has skillfully brought in new programming ideas this year, Susan Kemper who is visiting current interest groups and plans to start a new interest group focused on community service, and Ann Ocheltree who spearheaded our presence at College of Marin's tabling event to market our branch.

Programs: In January we held a spirited, well-attended workshop, Financial Fitness for Life. We are hoping to see you all at the Tri-Branch lunch Saturday, February 20, to hear Francis White talk about California's education equity gap. In March, in celebration of International Women's Day, we hope you will join us as we see and discuss a one-showing movie based on the book, *Half the Sky, Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. (See the P. 1 article for more details.)

In order to generate new ideas for growing our branch, Board members met with Jo Harberson, a State Leader-on-Loan, in a two-hour workshop in late January and focused on membership recruitment. We agreed that we most need to focus our recruiting efforts on women in their late 40's and 50's, recent empty-nesters for example and others who have the time and energy to participate in AAUW. Specific goals we will be working on are to plan a program that would draw in that age group, to design a public relations plan of



Participants at the January 31 membership workshop included (left to right) AAUW Leader on Loan Jo Harberson and Marin Branch board members Nancy Greenfield, Dottie Burk and Mary Mossteller.

Financial Literacy Program

Fifteen enthusiastic members met Saturday, January 23 at the Corte Madera Town Center community room for a workshop entitled "Financially Fit for Life." In an interactive format, Gary Norman, a financial advisor, and colleague Ann Elliot, an investment fund manager, addressed a number of topics related to women and money matters. Both emphasized the importance of women taking control of their financial lives.

Many thanks to the speakers for a lively and informative program. Thanks also to Nancy

action to get our branch and its programs and accomplishments visible in the community, and to identify organizations with a common mission to look for collaboration areas and gap areas to encourage membership.

We would love to hear from you about ideas you have to grow our organization! Contact any board member to share your ideas or join us at a board meeting.

Van Horn for suggesting the speaker, Mary Fran McCluskey for introducing the speaker, Mary Mossteller for help with planning and set-up, and Nancy Greenfield for publicity. And congratulations to Maureen Keenan for winning the \$25 Barnes and Noble gift card!

Welcome New Members

Welcome to these two new members and please add this information to your membership directory:



Crystal Lewis-Pearson
646 Barberry Lane
San Rafael, CA 94903
clewispe@gmail.com
h) 415-479-1725
w)415-261-7355

Carolyn Michaelian
22 Heather Way, Mill Valley,
CA 94941
carmichael4321@att.net

BRANCH NEWS

Tax Deductible Dues

Note that \$46 out of the national AAUW dues of \$49 is tax deductible beginning with 2009 tax returns; \$3 is not because it is used for lobbying.

Board Seeks Meeting Location

The branch board is looking for a permanent location for regular first Monday board meetings. They were being held at the San Rafael Corporate Center, but in January the owners of the office complex began charging community groups for use of their meeting room. The March meeting will tentatively be at the home of Cherie Sorokin, but a permanent location is needed.

Welcome Table at COM

Board members set up a welcome table at the College of Marin's registration week. This was an opportunity to apprise students about our scholarships and also provide good publicity to potential members.

Speech Trek

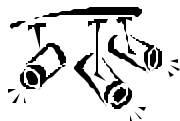
In December the board voted to develop a plan to participate next year in AAUW-CA's Speech Trek program, now in its fourth year. Speech Trek is an annual speech contest for high school students. Contestants compete locally for prizes and the opportunity to become one of three finalists to present at the AAUW CA spring convention. The top winners receive cash prizes.

Tech Trek

Letters to middle school science teachers went in the mail in early January seeking nominations for this summer's Tech Trek science/math camp at Stanford. Our branch will be able to sponsor five girls at the 2010 camp, thanks to the generosity of branch members contributing to the AAUW Scholarship Fund..



Pictured are Marin Branch president-elect Cherie Sorokin (at left) and branch member Vicki DeMasi (at right) with Michelle Jaureguito Henley (center), a current California Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Supported Plaintiff whose story was featured at an AAUW Funds luncheon in January. Several Marin Branch members attended the luncheon in Danville. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund works to combat sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.



Spotlight on Interest Groups

*by Susan Kemper,
Interest Groups Vice President*

This month I visited the Crafts Group that meets on the second Tuesday of the month. I learned that the women's art of conversation and laughter while sharing work on projects such as knitting, scrapbooking, mending and all other manner of busy work is alive and well in our branch. While those present worked on various projects the talk ranged from health issues to books, travel and even some gentle political discussion. The time went by very fast and I even learned a little bit about knitting, not easy for this coordination-challenged member.

If you think you might be interested in catching up on your mending or getting your photos in order while enjoying the fellowship of interesting women

call Judy Ryan at 883-1028 for more information.

Cooking Light

Cooking Light is an informal dinner group for both singles and couples that meets quarterly. Although there is individual interest among members in keeping this group gathering they need a leader to coordinate the meetings. If you are interested in knowing more about what leading this group would entail please contact Jeanne Lese at jeanne.lese@earthlink.net.

Shelter Project Effort Success!

Thank you to those members who donated warm clothing items for the women who are the nighttime guests of several Marin County churches this winter. Through this branch project we provided more than 100 items such as scarves, mittens and socks from which the women could choose. Your response was much appreciated.



AAUW newsletter:
contact
Ann Thomas
924-9559