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AAUW

## AAUW Marin Newsletter

April 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.*

### AAUW Book Events Highlight March

*"Three Cups" presentation drew more than 100 guests  
Book Passage talk was fascinating insight into publishing industry*



Following Julia's talk at Westminster Presbyterian on Sunday, March 22, guests enjoyed coffee, tea and baked goods provided by our book sections.



Julia Bergman, Chair of the Central Asia Institute board, described how the Institute has opened 78 schools which have served 28,000 students, focusing in particular on education for girls in these remote regions. The work was begun by Greg Mortenson who wrote about it in *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission To Promote Peace...One School At A Time.*

Branch members were treated to two excellent programs based on recent books and publishing trends this past month.

To mark Women's History Month and celebrate AAUW's mission, Marin Branch joined with the Women of Westminster Presbyterian church in Tiburon to sponsor a program on the Central Asia Institute. Since 1996 the non-profit has worked to bring education to undeveloped regions in Pakistan and Afghanistan, at times in the face of Taliban opposition, and with an emphasis on education for girls. Along with schools, the Institute has funded water projects and opened women's centers.

Speaker Julia Bergman, a former college librarian, told how she became involved with the Institute following a sabbatical in the late 1990's to the Himalayas. Her first job was selecting books for a school but she now chairs the board of directors and is an articulate spokesperson for the program. Many thanks to branch member Jean Cox-Treverton, who attended high school with Julia, for arranging her appearance. The program was held at the Tiburon Church and drew more than 100 people.

On March 17 Day Books hosted a lively talk by Book Passage owner Elaine Petrocelli at which Marin's popular book guru described inner workings of the publishing industry and previewed some favorite new titles. Elaine noted that her mother had been president of an AAUW branch in the community where they lived.

#### **Some Elaine Picks...**

*White Tiger*, Aravind Adiga

*The Little Giant of Aberdeen County*, Tiffany Baker

*The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, Muriel Barbery

*The 19th Wife*, David Ebershoff

*Pictures at an Exhibition*, Sara Houghteling

*Loving Frank*, Nancy Horan

*The Woman Behind the New Deal*, Kirstin Downey

#### **Coming Up Next.. Awards Luncheon**

Named Gift Awards  
Life members

Branch Scholarships  
EF Speaker Program  
Pot Luck Luncheon

Election of New Board

Saturday, May 30, 2009

11 AM to 1 PM  
Flyer next month

## Section Meetings: April 2009

- Apr 1 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
- Apr 2 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.
- Apr 6 Mon READING ARTS AM.** 10 AM. Read *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary Shmidt. Section Leader is Joan Hersko, 100 Thorndale Drive, Apt. 305, San Rafael, phone 492-2656.  
**BOARD MEETING.** 6 PM, San Rafael Corporate Center, San Rafael.
- Apr 7 Tues BRIDGE AM.** Leader Bonnie Casassa, 457-6501.
- Apr 8 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.** 6 PM. Call Georgia Schall, 898-2701, for details.
- Apr 9 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..
- Apr 10 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.
- Apr 13 Mon BRIDGE PM.** Ladies Duplicate. Leader is Pat Zentner, 453-5769.
- Apr 14 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.
- Apr 15 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 Terry Ulin, 112 Almenar Drive, Greenbrae, 461-2169. Read *Love Again* by Doris Lessing.  
 Section Leader is Dorothy Kilian, 924-2648.  
**FUTURES OF WOMEN.** 7 PM at home Nancy Greenfield, 22 Skylark Drive, Larkspur, 927-7254. Read *Wild Nights* by Joyce Carol Oates. Section Leader Kathy McCaffrey, 492-1727.
- Apr 16 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.
- Apr 17 Fri BOARD GAMES.** 7 PM at home of Mary Mossteller, 130 Acacia Avenue, Larkspur, 924-3096. Trivial Pursuit, Quiddler, Balderdash, Cranium, and others. Section Leader Ann Thomas, 924-9559.
- Apr 21 Tues DAY BOOKS.** 10 AM. At the home of Section Leader Natalie Whittlesey, 350 Vista Drive, Mill Valley. Natalie will also be the reviewer. Call Natalie, 383-8638.
- Apr 22 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.  
**EVENING BOOKS.** 7:30 PM. Read *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga. Discussion Leader is Sonia Feder.  
 Section Leader Sharon Levien, 383-2135.  
**READING ARTS PM.** 7:30 PM. Read *The Zookeeper's Wife: a war story* by Diane Ackerman. Section Leaders are Ann Jessup, 461-6078, and Judy Ryan, 883-1028.
- Apr 23 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.
- Apr 24 Fri POKER.** 7:30. Eleanor Kellogg-Smith's, 57 Ross Avenue, San Anselmo. Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072.  
**BRIDGE.** Evening Couples Duplicate. Section Leader Terry Gordon, 897-7692.
- Apr 28 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.
- Apr 29 Wed GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
- Apr 30 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.

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

### Occasional Sections

**AAUW: BEHIND THE HEADLINES.** Contact Georgia Schall at 898-2701 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.

## Branch News

### Roster Errata

Add this new member:

Libby Ginsberg  
60 Redwood Road  
San Anselmo 94960  
Email [libbywg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:libbywg@sbcglobal.net)  
Phone 415/ 454-6485

Libby is recently retired from career in law and journalism and is interested in The Futures of Women, Evening Books, Meet Me at the Movies, Hiking and Women's Issues.

Pat Williams has a new email address: [mzkendirth@gmail.com](mailto:mzkendirth@gmail.com)

Eva Long has a new address:  
2 Quail Ridge Road  
Kentfield, CA 94904

### An Electronic Newsletter Possible Next Year

If Marin Branch membership continues to decline it may soon reach the point where it no longer qualifies for bulk mailing postage rates. Bulk mail rates, which are about one third of first class postage, requires a minimum mailing of 200 pieces and the branch is close to dipping below that number. As a result the board is considering the possibility of converting to emailing the newsletter

If you have an email address and have not provided it to the branch we hope you will do so when you renew your membership in the event that it becomes necessary to make this change.

Although AAUW annual dues are now \$82, only \$16 of that remains with the local branch.

### May 30 Year End Event

Mark your calendar for our annual pot luck luncheon, awards day, general meeting and speaker program. We have a great speaker from UC Berkeley coming this year. Details will be in the next newsletter.

## Major Changes in AAUW Structure *Bylaws Revision will Authorize Restructuring*

At the June 2009 national convention in St. Louis AAUW will complete a restructuring that was partially approved at the 2007 convention. The vote to revise the bylaws in St. Louis will authorize significant changes. Members will be most affected by the following two changes:

### Educational Requirements Dropped

Under the proposed new bylaws, AAUW membership would be open to any individual supportive of the mission, without regard to college degree status, and to partner members. Partner membership broadens the current college/university membership category to include the possibility of other institutions or organizations that meet the criteria.

Branches and states will not be required to make any changes if their current structure works well for them. However, the new bylaws mandate only an administrative and financial contact person from each branch/state, allowing the branches and states to create the structure and leadership positions that best use their resources.

### AAUW to Combine with the Educational Foundation.

The Association (AAUW) and the Ed Foundation will combine many of their assets to a single organization with one set of elected officers, with the goal of streamlining administration and making the major portion of AAUW dues tax-deductible.

Currently AAUW is an IRS Section 501 (c)(4) organization, defined as a "public" or "social welfare" organization. Under this designation it can engage in unlimited lobbying subject to restrictions on political activities, and contributions such as dues are not tax-deductible. The Ed Foundation is formed under IRS Section 501 (c)(3), making it a "public charity" to which contributions are tax-exempt.

After restructuring, to take place on July 1, 2009, the new organization will be known as AAUW and it will control both the Section 501(c)(3) public charity, which will be the primary organization, and a Section 501 (c)(4) social welfare organization, which will engage in lobbying and will be called the AAUW Action Fund. After restructuring, donations to the national AAUW Section 501(c)(3) public charity will be tax-deductible, but donations to the national AAUW Section 501 (c)(4) public welfare organization, the AAUW Action Fund that supports AAUW's Lobby Corps and election-related activities, will continue not to be deductible.

Beginning April 1, 2009, AAUW national dues will be \$49, or which \$6 will be tax-deductible by the individual member; \$3 of the national dues payment will not be tax-deductible because it will be used to support the AAUW Action Fund activities.

After the restructuring, AAUW and EF boards will be merged into one board with authority over all aspects of AAUW activity, including:

- delivery of programs and policies
- setting membership dues
- appointment of the directors of the AAUW Action Fund
- appointment and oversight of AAUW committees and task forces, including determining the process for the awarding of fellowships and grants.

## Meet Me at the Movies: reviews by section members



by Susan Gilardi

Our movie for February was a French film nominated for Best Foreign Language Oscar, *The Class*. We found it compelling, mesmerizing. It really resonated for the four former teachers among us. But even our non-teacher was riveted by the realistic portrayal and felt quite sympathetic toward the teacher.

The film played like a documentary. The main character of the teacher was portrayed by the real teacher who wrote the book. Some of the students in the movie were also actual students recruited from the community; some were professional actors.

The class of students was ethnically mixed, mostly immigrants, from lower socioeconomic strata. The teacher was inspiring, compassionate, frustrated, as are so many who teach in similar environments.

We enjoyed the realistic portrayal of the kids in such a racially and culturally mixed classroom. But it brought back some unpleasant memories for us teachers, too: of over-crowded classrooms; of the knowledge that you, the teacher, could only save some of the kids; of being caught in a system that had a life of its own.

Parent conferences showed how immigrant parents were dealing – or not – with their new location. There were conflicts between teacher and student, teacher and teacher, teacher and parent, student and student, which all gave the movie a rich texture and a fascinating tension.

Though some of us felt the movie was a little long, the rest felt it was just right. We gave *The Class* a 4 out of 5 star rating

## Ed Foundation/Legal Advocacy Fund Corner Thanks for Your Education Foundation (EF) Support

by Georgia Schall Education Foundation Co-Vice President

Recently, Mary Mossteller and I heard from the Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund thanking all the branches for their support of these funds in 2008! Our Branch has been most generous and we all can be pleased about that!

We want to thank all those who suggested names for the EF Named Gift Honoree award. Please mark your calendar now for May 30<sup>th</sup> to find out who will receive these awards. In addition, EF Fellow, Olga Karpenko will be speaking to us about her studies at UC Berkeley!

### Notes and Quotes

AAUW wants to honor members who served in the military. Please let Membership VP Ann Ocheltree know if you have served in the military, and which branch you were in. Email her at [ocheltreea@lucasvalley.net](mailto:ocheltreea@lucasvalley.net) or call her at 415/479-3876.

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The 19th Annual Historic Healdsburg Homes Tour presented by the AAUW Healdsburg Branch to benefit the AAUW scholarship program and the Healdsburg area public schools will be Sunday, May 3 from 1 to 4:30 PM. For tickets and information, go to the branch website, [www.healdsburgaauw.com](http://www.healdsburgaauw.com), and complete registration online or call: 707-473-0313

**We also want you to know that it is once again time to consider the gift you would like to donate to the Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund for 2009.** A mailer will be sent out by the end of April. Your kind consideration will be appreciated by all those who benefit from these funds! And if you have a matching grant opportunity with your employer or former employer, please consider using that to increase your opportunity to give to these funds. Call either Georgia or Mary (numbers below) if you have questions.

**Can you help us with a Mailing Party on Tuesday, April 21 from 1 to 4 PM?** Please call either Mary at 924-3096 or Georgia at 898-2701 to volunteer! We promise easy work and munchies to go along with the fun!

### In Memoriam

Former AAUW president and 20 year Southern Marin branch member Marianne Figen passed away January 24, 2009 at her home in Larkspur. Marianne was also an EF Named Gift Honoree, and a well-known bridge player.

Born in San Francisco in 1915, Marianne was also a life member of the Society of California Pioneers, attended Hastings Law School and, after marriage classmate, settled in Marin and raised four children here.

## GOT AAUW MARIN STUFF?

AAUW Marin has recently rented a storage space to compile in one place all the branch historical records, past rosters and newsletters, program supplies, signs, etc. that have been spread around Board members' homes. If you are a former Board member, chair or officer and still are holding on to AAUW materials that you think the branch should keep, please call Chris O'Neill at 457-0862 to arrange for their delivery to the storage unit.