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AAUW

AAUW Marin Newsletter

May 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.*

Nominations for 2009-2010 Board

Installation of officers at May 30 salad luncheon

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following names for election as officers and for appointed board positions for 2009-2010.

Elected Positions

Co-Presidents	Mary Mossteller
.....	Georgia Schall
President-Elect	Cherie Sorokin
Membership Vice President	Ann Ocheltree
Interest Groups Vice President	Susan Kemper
Programs Vice President	Dottie Burk
EF/LAF Vice President.....	Mary Gomes
Secretary	Sondy Adams
Treasurer	Nancy Van Horn

Appointed Positions

Scholarship Chair	Chris O'Neill
Tech Trek Coordinator	Joyce Erlenbach
Roster Production	Terry Ulin
Open House Chair	Jean Cox-Treverton
Holiday Luncheon Co-Chairs.....	Fran Hall
.....	Mardi Leland
Holiday Luncheon Auction	Linda Noel
.....	Chris O'Neill
Holiday Gift Wrapping Project	Pat Hager
Publicity	Nancy Greenfield
Newsletter/Pubic Policy	Ann Thomas
Webmaster	Nancy Finston

Regarding the May 19 Special Election

The State of California just dealt with a deficit of \$40 billion.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) has been a staunch supporter of education and public health measures for 126 years. Our nearly 14,000 members in California sympathize with those who protest proposed cuts. The budget reductions spared few, if any, departments, programs or services. At the same time the budget also depends on significant tax increases.

A 2008 AAUW CA statement regarding the budget deficit battle urged "a balanced approach of revenue increase and expenditure reduction geared to maintaining a safety net of vital government services". We wanted to:

- Protect basic education and human services infrastructure.
- Maintain all health and safety standards.
- Equitably distribute cuts.
- Seriously assess the options for tax and fee increases.

We believe the budget proposals are the best we can expect in this difficult time. AAUW members are asked to take a deep breath and **vote yes** for the budget items 1-A, 1-B, 1-C, 1-D, 1-E, and 1-F on the May 19 special election ballot.

Mark Your Calendar Now....

**Fall Open House:
Saturday, September 12, 2009
San Rafael Corporate Center**

Branch Calendar/Interest Group Meetings: May 2009

- May 4 Mon** **READING ARTS AM.** 10 AM. Read *The Street of a Thousand Blossoms* by Gail Tsukiyama. 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.
- May 5 Tues** **BRIDGE AM.** Leader Bonnie Casassa, 457-6501.
- May 6 Wed** **GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
- May 7 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.
- May 8 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.
- May 11 Mon** **BRIDGE PM.** Ladies Duplicate. Leader is Pat Zentner, 453-5769.
- May 12 Tues** **CRAFTS.** Members work on personal craft projects including knitting, quilting, needlepoint, scrap book-
ing, card-making, crocheting. Meets 1 to 4 PM. Section Leaders: Judy Ryan, 883-1028, and Mary
Mossteller, 924-3096.
- May 13 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.
- May 14 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..
- May 15 Fri** **BOARD GAMES.** 7 PM at home of Elaine Marevich, 5 Byron Circle, Mill
Valley, 381-4681. Trivial Pursuit, Quiddler, Balderdash, Cranium, and others. Section Leader Ann Tho-
mas, 924-9559.
- May 19 Tues** **DAY BOOKS.** 10 AM. At the home of Florence Garvey. Dolores Simon will also be the reviewer. Section
Leader is Natalie Whittlesey, 383-8638.
- May 20 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 Sue Fleckles. Read *The Cleft* by Doris Lessing. Section
Leader is Dorothy Kilian, 924-2648.
FUTURES OF WOMEN. 7 PM at home Nancy Finston. Read *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khalid
Hosseini. Section Leader Kathy McCaffrey, 492-1727.
- May 21 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.
- May 22 Fri** **POKER.** 7:30. Location to be decided. Leader Dee Skore, 472-1072.
BRIDGE. Evening Couples Duplicate. Section Leader Terry Gordon, 897-7692.
- May 26 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.
- May 27 Wed** **GOLF.** 9:00 AM (approx) McInnis Park. Call Section Leader Joyce Erlenbach, 491-1542.
READING ARTS PM. 7:30 PM. Read *Eventide* by Kent Haruf. Section Leaders are Ann Jessup, 461-
6078, and Judy Ryan, 883-1028.
- May 28 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 at home of Sharon Levién, 801 Everest Court, Mill Valley. Read *Annette
Vallon* by James Tipton. Section Leader Sharon Levién, 383-2135.
- May 30 Sat** **Annual Awards & Pot Luck Luncheon.** 11 AM to 1 PM, San Rafael Corporate Center.

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 Yung 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.

Four Tech Trek Scholars for 2009

Branch to Sponsor Middle School Girls at Science Camp



Ariana Traub
Del Mar



Katie Olrich
Hall



Mariaelena Guitierrez
Venetia Valley



Samantha Andow
Davidson

The Tech Trek committee is pleased to introduce our scholarship recipients for the Tech Trek Math and Science Camp at Stanford this year.

Ariana Traub is a 7th grade student at Del Mar Middle School and a competitive swimmer. She specializes in the butterfly stroke and free style swimming. She loves math and science and hopes someday to become a physician. In her essay, she describes how swimming has taught her a valuable life lesson. For swimming "you have to have the will to push yourself and do your best". This is what she tries to do at school and will bring to the Tech Trek camp experience.

Katie Olrich is a 7th grader at Hall Middle School. She moved from Chicago last year and is enjoying living in Marin. She loves animals and at this point in her life, she thinks she would like to be a zoo veterinarian. She is currently training with the Marine Mammal Center to participate in their volunteer program. Though she is active in many activities in school, her extracurricular love is Irish Dancing.

Samantha Andow is a 7th grade student at Davidson Middle School. She loves math and

participates in the Mathletes program at school. According to her teacher recommendation, she is a "top scorer and a delight to be around" Her other love is horses. She loves riding and volunteers at Halleck Creek Riding Center. Her vocational goal is something using math and computers.

Mariaelena Guitierrez is a 7th grader at Venetia Valley School. She loves math and science and is active on the student council, plays basketball and dances Mexican folk dancing at presentations in the area. Her goal is to follow in the footsteps of her brother, who is now in college and has always been her mentor. She will also be a Counselor in Training at the Corte Madera Rec. Center this summer. She hopes one day to be a science teacher.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Selection Committee for all their hard work. Ann Thomas, Margaret Wallace and Robin Sparks had the difficult task of choosing our campers. While we love meeting each applicant, it is difficult to know that only four will be chosen and this year seven were disappointed. I also want to thank Vicki De Masi, who con-

tributed her time and copy machine!

Please mark your calendars for our Fall Open House. Come and meet our Tech Trek campers. They are an enthusiastic, articulate, group of girls who will answer your questions about Tech Trek and tell you all about their experiences.

Thank you all for your financial support and see you at the Open House.

Joyce Erlenbach
Tech Trek Coordinator

Roster Update

Welcome to our new member, Nada Glenn,. Nada is retired, and has degrees in linguistics and Italian. Please add her contact information to your roster:

1222 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
San Anselmo 94960.
Telephone 452-1939
email nadaglenn@peoplePC.com.

Nominating Committee

Many thanks to Nancy Greenfield, Susan Kemper, Jeanne Lese, Ann Ocheltree and Cherie Sorokin, who served as the Nominating Committee to recruit the 2009-2010 board. A job well done!

Pay Equity

by Marin Branch member Maureen Keenan

Maureen won a prize for this essay in the Ledbetter Pay Equity Essay contest sponsored by AAUW's San Francisco branch in conjunction with their 125th year celebration. Maureen, formerly a member of that branch, attended their celebration lunch March 21.

"IT ISN'T FAIR!" This is what ten-year old Veronica in fourth grade said after I explained to her that women do not have the same earning power as men do.

On average, women earned only seventy-eight cents for every dollar earned by men in 2005. This was a statistic quoted on a recent Today show news story about pay equity and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

This has been the story for me in my employment career. As I write this, I realize I have just accepted this as fact during my lifetime. Just sitting here and thinking about this I realize how angry I feel. My anger is justified!

Just focusing on this subject for this essay contest will, I am sure, motivate me to become more involved in promoting pay equity both locally and nationally. So, thank you for sponsoring this essay contest.

Are gender equity issues still relevant today? In the AAUW 'Behind the Pay Gap' article it was stated that just one year out of college, women working full time already earn less than their male colleagues earn, even when they work in the same field. Infuriating! Ten years after graduation, the pay gap widens. Frustrating! According to the Today show article, this can add up to \$200,000.00 in a woman's life.

Title IX, the U.S. law that leveled the playing field in education for men and girls, is in constant peril.

As a 65-year-old woman who has been a single parent for some thirty-four years, I was thrilled to watch President Obama sign the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act recently on television. President Obama spoke about passing this Act for his daughters' future benefit.

According to the Today show news report, the biggest gap exists in the area of blue collar non-union group of workers. For the past twenty years working as a Substitute Teacher I have often felt like a volunteer and have stated this observation to people. Since June of 2008, I have enjoyed teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) part time. My goal is to increase those night-time hours to day-time hours. Speaking fluent Spanish is also a goal of mine.

Last April when Senate Republicans filibustered the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, Senator John McCain said "if women want better-paying jobs, they just need more education and training." Being a life-long learner, I have been in classes almost constantly to improve my chances for better employment. Currently I am working with the Employment Development Department to obtain a grant to pay my salary as a Team Teacher in a daytime ESL classroom that I have volunteered in and have substituted in.

Since the 70's I have been a grateful member of AAUW in every city I have lived in. Registering with AAUW is one of the first things I do and it is a great way to meet like-minded, intelligent, courageous women. I have told many people that being a member of AAUW was worth going to college for.

In the 80's I first joined the San Francisco branch of AAUW and enjoy connecting with some

Ed Foundation/ LAF Corner

by Georgia Schall,
Educational Foundation
Co-Vice President

Our 2009 branch fundraising letter on behalf of AAUW's Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund (EF/LAF) went in the mail the end of April and you all should have received it by now. If not, please let Mary Mossteller or Georgia Schall know. Also feel free to call one of us if you have any questions. Because we will be turning over all the records for EF/LAF to Mary Gomes in June, your prompt response by **May 20th** will be appreciated!

And speaking of Mary Gomes! She is a new member to our Branch this year and has kindly jumped into this board position. She attended the EF Celebration Luncheon last October with several other Marin members and is excited to be taking on this position. By the way, she would like someone to be a Co EF/LAF VP with her. Mary Mossteller worked with me this year, and dividing the position is most helpful! Mary or I would be most happy to talk to you about this possibility! Please give Mary Gomes a big welcome and support during the next branch year!

of the same members in 2009. Elaine Butler is also from my home state of Wisconsin. I look forward to helping to plan the March celebration in San Francisco honoring this branch as the second oldest in the nation and the oldest in California.

Focusing once again on the Pay Equity issue, it infuriates me that with all the degrees and years of education I have, a male with the same amount of education and degrees earns more than I do at this point in American History.