
THE CONCORD CORRESPONDENT

American Association of University Women Concord, California Branch
Monthly Newsletter for October, 2007

Volume 2007 Issue #10

BONSAI ADVENTURE IN CLAYTON WITH FRANK REYES

What: October General Meeting
When: Saturday, October 13
Time: 11:00am
Where: 1007 Panadero Wy, Clayton CA 94517
Cost: There is no charge for this meeting

Our October Program is geared for the garden and tree lover enthusiast.

Come meet Frank Reyes of Clayton who will open his back yard to AAUW and share his life long passion of growing Bonsai Trees. Frank has been growing Bonsai Tree's for Forty years. Come learn about the history of the Bonsai and the different methods of cultivating the trees, as Frank shares his particular favorite which is called nature miniatures.

After we finish our tour of his trees, we will decide on a spot for lunch, if any of the group cares to continue the afternoon. See you then!!



Directions:

Take Clayton Rd towards Clayton.
Right on Mitchell Canyon
Right on Pine Hallow Rd.
Left on Panadero Wy. Frank's address is 1007
Panadero Wy, Clayton CA 94517



November's Program will be sponsored by Walnut Creek, Danville, Benecia-Vallejo, and Concord Branches.

Charlette Newhart AAUW-CA's Sacramento lobbyist peak on what's happening in Legislature with an emphasis on issues of interest to AAUW with a special emphasis on health care reform.

DATE: Sunday November 18,
WHEN: 2:30-3:30PM
WHERE: Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist
Church, 55 Eckly Lane, Walnut Creek



Concord Branch AAUW

The *Concord Correspondent* is published monthly by **American Association of University Women Concord Branch**

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from your President...

Greetings -

By the time you read this we will have had our first general meeting and started what has already become a very successful year. A big thank you to the women, especially Charlene Sorenson, who assisted the Concord Library with their Big Read. (See separate article) Luz Argyriou represented our branch at the Concord Human Rights Commission commemorating 911. (See separate article) Thank you Luz for promoting AAUW Concord.

As you can see a lot has happened in our branch even before the year officially begins. We have already made money from the 49er games that started in August. If you can volunteer please call Ronni Collmer. Under the guidance of Betty Hirsch and Phyllis Nishimori our branch delivered over 50 backpacks to Ygnacio Valley Elementary School. You are invited to participate in the many opportunities for community service our branch offers. Don't forget all the wonderful sections that provide fun and fellowship. Please invite your neighbors and friends to join us for the rest of the year.

--Carol Slatten

Directory Corrections...

Please call Carol for corrections in your Directory. If you have any other changes to be made, give Carol a call. (and THANK YOU CAROL for doing the hard work of creating our new directory!) If you have not received your copy....contact Carol and she'll see that you get yours!

Save these dates...

November General Meeting:

Nov 18: AAUW lobbyist, Charlotte Newhart will speak to a combined meeting with chapters from Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek, Lafayette/Orinda and our branch.



December General Meeting:

Dec 15: This year we will celebrate December with a Holiday Breakfast on December 15 at 9:30am at Marie Calendars. Because that is a 49er working day, this will bet a Holiday Brunch to begin at 9:30 a.m. Those working at the 49ers can then meet at noon.

EF Fellows

You may want to come to the upcoming Celebration Luncheon honoring the 2007-8 Educational Foundation Fellows and Grant Recipients who are studying in California. The luncheon will be held at Michael's at Shoreland from 12-3:00 pm and the cost is \$30.00.

The date of the event is October 21, and the deadline for RSVP's is October 9. If you are interesting in joining our branch members who expect to attend, give Betty Hirsch a call by October 5 so she can make arrangements and give you the details.

Member news...

Those who attended the September Luncheon had a chance to notice new member Christine Hwang.....she actually volunteered to chair two committees! She will be heading the Barnes & Noble fundraiser for Tech Trek and will also keep you posted on our Legal Advocacy Fund. Watch for her articles in the newsletters.

Christine is a Public Affairs Coordinator at Planned Parenthood. Her interests? Horseback riding, knitting and working out. Special skills? Conversational in Mandarin. She graduated from Georgetown, with a BA in American Government, and has an MPA in Public Administration. Her hometown is Danville.

Please add her name and address to your directory:

Backpacks galore.....

Thanks go to all of you who helped make our YV Elementary School students HAPPY!!!! We were able to deliver over 50 packs during the first week of school and have around 20 more waiting for delivery in January....wow!

Thanks go to Linda Smith, Karen Maurer, Lucille Rudik, Esther Smith, Joyce Jacobs, Charlene Sorenson, Lice Ponti, Jane Emanuel, Bea Cortes, Barbara Hooy, Sandy Hartman, Judy Cunan, Jean Warren, Anne Pieper, Andrea Proctor, Rita Cambridge, Marian Coons, Lynnet Keihl, JudySilverforb, Norma Griffin, Lana Hanlon, Joan Mize, Joanne Brown, Audrey Virage, Freda Hammes, Jean Simutis, Elaine Groen, Nadine Seadall, Patty Wintroath, Carol Slatton, Celeste Graham, Linda Haggerty and any others who we missed on this list! A special thanks to Betty Hirsch and Phyllis Nishimori for coordinating this project and to delivery helpers Andrew and Adam Hirsch!

BIG READ

Several AAUW-Concord members gave assistance to the Concord Library Big Read program (funded by the NEA). A picture of some of our volunteers will appear in the Contra Costa Times and provide appropriate publicity to AAUW-Concord.

Stickers were placed on the 10,000 study guides by Charlene Sorenson (assisted by Andrea Proctor, Helen Nelson, Lucille Rudick and Carol Slatten).

Volunteers who delivered study guides to local businesses include Norma Griffin, Betty Hirsch, Andrea Proctor, Celeste Graham, Jean Simutis and Carol Slatten.

AAUW book groups will be reading and discussing the book selected by the Concord library - Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. This book was chosen as it comes in Spanish, is on the high school reading list, is not lengthy and presents a timely subject.

All members are encouraged to become a part of this community project and participate by reading the book and attending study sessions. Free study guides are available throughout the city and free books are available at Todos Santos park and other venues around Concord.

The Truffaut film of the same name will be shown at the Brendan on October 15th at 7pm and will be free of charge.

Discussion groups will be held at the Concord Senior Center and Berkshire Books. Watch the newspaper for other activities coming in October.



Adam Hirsch, Treva Del Benne, Vickie Ruskosky, Barbara Craft, Barry Preston, Andrew Hirsch

August board meeting highlights...

August 27, 2007

In attendance were Ronni Collmer, Celeste Graham, Elaine Groen, Lana Hanlon, Betty Hirsch, Jean Simutis, and Carol Slatten.

Carol Slatten reported that Beverly Crane elected not to continue as LAF Chair. (editor's note: Christine Hwang, a new member, has volunteered to fill this office!)

Lana Hanlon reviewed the program for the year with the exception of the April meeting.

Nov 18: AAUW lobbyist, Charlotte Newhart will speak to a combined meeting with chapters from Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek, Lafayette/Orinda and our branch. This is a 49er game day so Ronni requested that notes or tapes be made for those of our group who work that day.

Dec 15: Lana reported that Marie Callender's was unable to change the date of the Holiday Party. Because that is a 49er working day, she requested approval of making it a Holiday Brunch to begin at 9:30 a.m. Those working at the 49ers can then meet at noon. The Board approved.

Jan: Lana on recommendation of Ronni spoke with Jesse Walters of Home Health Care. He has advised some other members to be on the panel. The board recommended that not too many speakers be chosen.

Feb: EF/CEF Luncheon
March: Afghani women
April: open
May: Concluding luncheon

Celeste Graham discussed the progress of new members. We still have fewer members than last year, but some have promised checks. She suggests that members carry brochures in their handbags which can be handed to potential members.

Betty Hirsch reported that letters have been sent to our EF scholarship winners so that they will return proof of registering enough units to receive their money.

Carol reported that Frede Hammes has begun a phone tree with participation by Janet Gormley, Sandy Hartman, Karen Mauer, Nadine Seedall, Jean Warren and Barbara Wigren. Members will be contacted two weeks prior to a meeting to remind them of the meeting. Discussion ensued re sending postcards to board members two weeks prior to a board meeting. Some members said they would rather be contacted by email to save postage. Others said that certain board members did not use their email. The board will contact each person in the way she desires.

New Business:

EF/CEF—Betty expressed concern that with the AAUW policy changes as to the effect it has on our CEF funds which accumulate in the EF account. Would those moneys be taken by national AAUW? Our endowments are for local scholarships so would not be touched. National AAUW is working to alter the policies.

Carol shared with the board that AAUW has created a CD re "Equity is Still an Issue". Carol will review it, report and make it available to others. She also distributed AAUW car magnet ribbons.

Read Concord. Jean reported that the Thursday evening training session was cancelled. Another will be held this Thursday evening at the Concord Library. Chris Takata at the Library is in charge of volunteers and can be reached at 645-5455. Volunteers are needed to distributed posters and flyers to businesses. Carol reports there is a "mini" application form online. Jean reports that a more detailed application will be available at the meeting.

The board agreed that Concord AAUW should be involved because it was our own members who initially made the library happen in Concord. Elaine suggested that we contact the Concord Transcript to ask for an article about that early group. It is unclear as to whether we have any members that can give us the history. Carol will ask Norma Griffin if she has the information. Members who have expressed interest in volunteering include Celeste Graham, Elaine Groen, Sandy Hartman, Betty Hirsch, Linda Smith, Andrea Proctor, Jean Simutis, and Carol Slatten. Carol will contact Norma Griffin, Charlene Sorenson and Franki English to see if they would be interested. It will also be promoted at book club meeting in September.

The Barnes and Noble fund raising day will be Friday, December 7 probably from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Two hour segments were worked last year. A sign-up sheet will be designed and distributed at a later date.

49er Games. Ronni spoke again of the need for more volunteers. This evolved into a discussion of other forms of fund raising. Ronni requested that we think about other ways to get volunteers. Betty reported that a Ways and Means Committee could be helpful.

Jean reported that the branch sent flowers to the funeral of Angie Perrilliat's sister. Angie has been the "angel" who has provided us with such good placement of our booth at the 49er games.

The backpack project. Betty reported that she and Phyllis have received filled backpacks or money to purchase 60 packs and the items to place in them. She and Phyllis will fill them this week and deliver them to Ygnacio Elementary.

Elaine Groen, Secretary

One of our AAUW EF Fellows makes the news!

This article was printed in the September 8 edition of the San Francisco Chronicle. In case you missed it, read on!

Researcher finds secret to eel's eating technique: Extra set of jaws

David Perlman, Chronicle Science Editor

Saturday, September 8, 2007

A young evolutionary biologist who wondered how the fearsome, snakelike moray eels manage to gobble up big fish - bigger, even, than the eels' own bodies - has come upon a striking discovery.

Using a high-speed digital TV camera and X-ray videos, Rita Mehta, a postdoctoral researcher at UC Davis, found that evolution has given the morays a unique and toothy gift.

The scary creature, she discovered, has two sets of jaws - sharp-toothed ones in their mouths to snatch any prey in sight with a single bite, and a second set of jaws hidden far back in their narrow throats to seize the struggling prey and with powerful muscles drag the helpless victim well down toward its stomach.

Long and slender, moray eels are actually a large family of fish made up of about 200 species spread throughout the world's oceans.

They eat fish, squid and octopuses often larger than themselves, and they have been known to spark fear in the hearts of swimmers and snorkelers as the morays lunge out from hiding places in rocky crevices, appearing vicious with their mouths agape. But marine biologists know them as shy and normally retiring, except when on the hunt.

That's when moray eels distinguish themselves from their fish relatives, Mehta learned. While most other fish snag prey with a set of sharp front teeth and then suck their victim down into their digestive tract in a flood of seawater, the morays don't use suction at all.

Instead, Mehta found, they snatch their prey with the teeth of their powerful outer jaws and then thrust the second set of jaws forward from deep within their throats to seize the prey with large, curved teeth. The first jaws release the victim within a fraction of a second, and the meal is swiftly on its way toward digestion.

The results of Mehta's research are published in the current issue of the journal Nature. In a commentary on her discovery, Mark W. Westneat, an expert on the feeding mechanisms of fish at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, called her report "a classic example of discovery-based science, stemming from an inspirational 'oh wow!' moment."

Although her find "will enhance the moray eel's fearsome reputation," Westneat said, Mehta's discovery "provides biologists with an important instance of a novel function in the skull of fishes that can be used to study the evolution of complexity."

Mehta has also worked with morays and other fish at San Francisco's California Academy of Sciences, and John McCosker, the Academy's chairman of aquatic biology, said her discovery "gives us another lovely example of fish evolution." Although he has studied the behavior of moray eels all over the world for the past 35 years, McCosker said, he had never seen how they managed to consume prey that is so much bigger around than they are.

"It took Mehta's curiosity and persistence with the tools she used to answer a question we've all wondered about," McCosker said.

Millions of years of evolution have given most fish the ability to feed by suction, Mehta explained in an interview, and although they too possess a second set of jaws - known as pharyngeal jaws - they apparently serve no function. But morays have lost the ability to feed by suctioning their prey, and instead have evolved those extra rear jaws and muscles to use as a powerful feeding mechanism, Mehta said.

"Evolution has led to the extreme elongation of the morays' bodies," she said, "and like other fish it has also led to limb reduction.

"But when I watched them feeding, I kept wondering how on Earth do they capture their prey when their ability to use suction has been lost through evolution. So I started studying them, and then I found that evolution has given them those crazy teeth in their pharyngeal jaws way back behind their skulls. It's an amazing innovation, and our high-speed video camera was the smoking gun that gave me the answer. "

Co-authoring Mehta's Nature report was Peter Wainwright, professor of ecology and evolution at UC Davis, whose laboratory where Mehta worked focuses largely on the feeding biology of fishes.

49er Days are here again!

At the September luncheon, Joanne Brown led a discussion about our 49er involvement. If you haven't helped with this fund-raiser, it may be time to re-consider. Think about helping for just one day, this year.....it would mean a lot to our branch and to our Scholars!

In recent years, we have shared the wealth earned from our 49er booth with other groups, in order to have enough bodies to "work" the booth. This year, it would be great if we could get a few more volunteers from our Concord Branch.

We put in a full day's of work; however, we are provided with lunch and unlimited non-alcohol beverage. If you personally don't feel qualified to do this kind of volunteering, perhaps you have a family member or a friend who would like to come. We truly do have fun working together with the excitement of the crowd, and we truly do earn a lot of money.

Could you help us keep this money IN our Branch? Please let me know for which games you have volunteers or if you have any questions.

The dates for the games are:

October 7 – vs. Baltimore – Sunday, Meet at 8:00am
October 28 – vs. New Orleans – Sunday, Meet at 8:00am
November 18 – vs. St. Louis – Sunday, Meet at 8:00am
December 9 – vs. Minnesota – Sunday, Meet at 8:00am
December 15 – vs. Cincinnati – SATURDAY, Meet at 11:45am
December 23 – vs. Tampa Bay – Sunday, Meet at 11:45am

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be on October 1 at Lana Hanlon's home, refreshments by Elaine Groen. All members are welcome to attend. Try coming....you might learn something!

Want your newsletter by e-mail?

If you are interested in getting your newsletter in your computer's mailbox, let us know. It is sent out at the same time as the regular mailing, in .pdf format.....so all you need to read it is Adobe Acrobat Reader. E-mail Phyllis Nishimori if you are interested, and we'll put you on the list.

Our Tech Trek girls ...and Barnes & Noble

Those attending the September luncheon were lucky enough to hear first-hand from Laura Dreisbach (one of our 2007 Tech Trek girls) about her experiences this year.

Tech Trek is such a great program....let's be sure to help keep Concord AAUW involved! Joanne Brown is busy looking for sponsors for our 2008 students.....if you can help, give her a call.

Also, be sure to sign up to help with the Barnes and Noble fund-raiser, which is designated for Tech Trek. For info on that, call Christine Hwang. The event will be held on December 7 and involves sitting at a table and passing out info (on AAUW), coupons (we get a percentage on those used with purchases) and smiles (to get people to stop and ask "what's up?")

Section Meetings

Evening Book: Evening Book will meet Oct. 9 at 7:30 at the home of Helen Nelson. The book to be reviewed is Water for the Elephants by Sara Gruen. We will review the "Big Read" book Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury at our Nov. 13th meeting. Come join us!

Helen Nelson

Afternoon Book: We will meet on Monday, Oct 8 at 1:00 at the home of Gini Colling. The book to be discussed is Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen. Join us!

Lucille Rudik

Bunco: BUNCO will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. at Ruth Lyle's. Please call Andrea by Oct. 7 if you would like to join us. Anyone can play and each player donates \$5.

Whine and Wine: October Whine and Wine will be held at Lana Hanlon's house on October 26 at 7pm. This month please bring you favorite wine. It can be anything!! Just have fun and we will see you then. Please RSVP.



Moment of Unity

The Concord Human Relations Commission invited our branch to take part in a Moment of Unity, commemorating 9/11. This invitation was sent to a variety of civic groups. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers, on Monday, September 10th. at 7:00 p.m.

Luz G. Argyriou, representing the Concord Branch, was one of three community representatives present at the meeting. There was a scheduled speaker who presented a 15 minute video and spoke about "Challenge Day", a program aimed at high school students. The video's title was "How to Survive High School". After the silent Moment of Unity, there was an opportunity for the reps to speak to the commission and the audience.

Luz spoke briefly about AAUW being a long standing (had its 125th anniversary !) national organization, with its main focus being equity for women. She described the three main activities of AAUW at the national, state and local levels. She emphasized our Branch's belief in education as a crucial element in improving the lives of women and those around them. She described our local work with young girls and described the Tech Trek program and also the scholarship program for budding scholars at the local community colleges. Finally, she thanked the commission for its invitation reiterating that the Concord Branch is very much a part of the community, and its members volunteer in many areas.

Public Policy--National

AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps

About twenty women, ranging in age from their early 20's through their 80's pair off, with lists of congressional offices requiring visits, are ready to explain to Capitol Hill staffers and elected officials why they should pay attention to AAUW's position on the issues.

In Washington, DC, this unique group of dedicated--all volunteer-women celebrate 32 years of equity advocacy.

Since 1975, the group has made an average of 1200 visits each year--that's more than 38 thousand appearances--and counting

Time magazine noted that the halls of Congress were dubbed "Gucci Gulch" -- a reference to pricey attire of paid lobbyists. However, on Thursday, when AAUW hits the Hill, it is strictly rubber-heeled Naturalizers.

Winning respect on the Hill has occurred on both sides of the aisle. Sen. Kay Baily Hutchison (R-TX) has lauded AAUW as has our own Rep. George Miller (D-CA). "They've defended Title IX, defended pay equity, protected the civil rights to which every American is entitled. They are integral contributors to the debates that we have every day on the Hill. They give voice to every woman and girl."

(More on Lobby Corps next issue...)

Success! The College Cost Reduction Act of 2007 (H2669) would funnel roughly \$20 billion in to college financial aid programs. It has passed both House and Senate and is waiting for the President's signature.

This bill was discussed in the Sept. Correspondent. Increased Pell grants, lowered interest rates on student loans--paid for by cutting federal subsidies to banks issuing federal student loans--the highest federal commitment since the GI Bill of 1944! Thanks for your support!

Margaret Hackenbracht, Co-chair, Public Policy

Interested in Public Policy?

Orinda Moraga Lafayette Branch in Conjunction with other branches from Contra Costa Proudly Presents **Lisa Maatz**, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations of AAUW

As AAUW's top policy advisor, Lisa advances AAUW's priority issues on Capitol Hill, through the executive branch, and in coalition with other organizations. Her areas of expertise, pay equity, and other civil rights issues to women and girls.

Hear how recent actions in Washington DC affect you and your family...

The Supreme Court and Federal Ban on Abortion Pay Equity Jobs

State of Title IX and how it affects our Girls and Women Learn how to make your voice heard.

Friday, October 5, 2007 5:00pm at the Orinda Community Center, Founders Auditorium 28 Orinda Way, Orinda 94563



AAUW Ratify the Women's Rights Treaty

In May, AAUW joined more than 200 leading organizations nationwide in supporting ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The response from AAUW members through our Two-Minute Activist was phenomenal. Once again, AAUW is joining forces with coalition partners to keep the pressure on the Senate to ratify CEDAW.

Also known as the Women's Rights Treaty, CEDAW is the most comprehensive agreement addressing international women's rights. The treaty can be an effective tool in reducing violence and discrimination against women and girls, ensuring access to education and health care, and preventing other human rights abuses. AAUW has endorsed CEDAW since 1981.

Although the U.S. played a defining role in drafting the convention and signed the treaty in 1980, it remains the

only industrialized country to fail to ratify it. In fact, while 185 countries have ratified the treaty, the U.S. is one of only eight countries that have yet to do so, standing alongside Sudan, Iran, Qatar, Somalia, Nauru, Palau, and Tonga. While the treaty has enjoyed bipartisan support in the U.S., it has never made it to the Senate floor for a full vote. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted in 1994 and in 2002 to send the treaty to the floor for ratification, but the Senate recessed each time before the vote occurred.

Take Action! Urge your senators to advocate for basic rights for all women around the world by ratifying CEDAW.

AAUW members have always been in the forefront of helping others...from our immediate families to our extended communities around the globe.

Set Aside These Dates...

October 1	Board Meeting	October 26	Whine and Wine
October 5	EF Fellow Luncheon DEADLINE	October 28	49ers vs. New Orleans
October 7	49ers vs. Baltimore	November 18	GENERAL MEETING
October 8	Afternoon Book	December 7	Barnes and Noble for Tech Trek
October 9	Evening Book	December 9	49ers vs. Minnesota
October 10	Bunco	December 15	HOLIDAY BREAKFAST
October 13	GENERAL MEETING		49ers vs. Cincinnati
		December 23	49ers vs. Tampa Bay

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is California's most active and diverse organization for women offering: action for equity, personal and professional growth, community leadership, and friendships.

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. Membership is open to all college or university graduates) and to students enrolled in college or university. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.



Concord AAUW
PO Box 434
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AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED