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# THE CONCORD CORRESPONDENT

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

Volume 2007 Issue #12

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## Come Celebrate the Holidays

**What:** Holiday Breakfast

**When** Saturday, December 15

**Time:** 9:00am to 12:00pm

**Where** Marie Calendars

2090 Diamond Blvd. Concord

**Cost:** \$13.00

**Reservations: before December 10**

Welcome Friends!! This holiday season we will be celebrating with something a little different due to the 49er game that members will be attending that afternoon.

Our holiday party will be a breakfast at Marie Calendars in Concord. Please dress in Holiday Attire and bring a gift for the Silent Auction. Examples from past years: home baked goods, a bottle of wine, plants, jewelry, crafts, etc. Plan to purchase tickets for these items and return home with a lovely prize. Remember to bring your mailing labels to put on the back of the tickets to assist the auctioneer in announcement of winners. These donations help our delegates to attend state convention.

Holiday entertainment this year will be provided by Clayton Valley High School Choral Group.

Happy Holidays and hope to see you there!!



### **Breakfast Brunch Menu**

Scrambled Eggs

Country Potatoes

Quiche

Muffins/Fruit

Bacon/Sausage

Orange Juice/Coffee



**Concord Branch AAUW**

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

Permit #166  
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***from your President...***

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Hi, All-  
I hope this Newsletter finds you in a little lull between holidays.

Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. our branch is having a fundraiser for Tech Trek at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore on Contra Costa Blvd. You should have received vouchers by email or regular mail to give to your family and friends. On that day, whenever anyone buys a book and shows that voucher, our AAUW will receive a percent of the sale. The more books that are purchased with our vouchers the more we make. Please plan to do holiday shopping on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> and help us send an additional girl to Tech Trek. Many of you volunteered to work that day and you have received your assignments in the mail. Thank you so much for volunteering - I didn't have to draft anyone else to help and I appreciate that.

I look forward to greeting you all at the December Holiday Brunch and wish you the best in the New Year. I can hardly believe how quickly 2007 has gone.

Carol

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***Adopted Family***

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If you haven't yet received our letter, you should be getting it soon....

As we have for many years, we are adopting a family for the holidays from our school, Ygnacio Valley Elementary.

If you feel like helping out this year, that would be great! Always needed are non-perishable food items (especially rice, uncooked beans, masa flour), shampoo, soap, towels, blankets.....

Thank you once more for making this project possible and for giving us the opportunity to spread our cheer!

Phyllis Nishimori and Betty Hirsch

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***Save the date...***

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**January General Meeting:**

When: January 19 at 10:00am  
Where: Concord Police Station  
Topic: Gateway to Senior Services  
in the Community

We will have a panel discussion  
on resources for Seniors and their



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## *Educational Foundation...*

### *....a bit of history*

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Looking at EF and the Actual Beginning...

AAUW has had a fellowship and scholarship program since its earliest days. However, EF as we know it is only fifty years old. It was in the early fifties that members of AAUW were struggling with the issue of utilizing the college educations they were accomplishing in greater numbers and keeping the domestic parts of their lives in balance. AAUW encouraged "responsible community leadership."

Frances Concordia was one of the women that exemplified "the combination of family and professional talents that AAUW sought to promote." (Degrees of Equality, p.94) She had a degree from University of Michigan and a Ph.D. in business administration from Northwestern University. The year 1936 marked her entry into the world of investment counseling. Six years later she moved on to a job as a market and economic research analyst with General Electric. It was there Frances was recruited by her boss's wife to join AAUW. She found the wide range of AAUW's community activities attractive. In 1953, like many women of that period, she left her job to devote herself to her family and community issues.

Concordia used her professional training in volunteer efforts and served on both branch and state boards. She joined the national board in 1953 as treasurer. Her comment in a later interview was that she found the Association's finances "in kind of bad shape." The financial books were haphazard and there were large sums of money sitting in checking accounts drawing no interest. Concordia recognized the need for Association funds to be managed more efficiently. She was anxious to see research and fellowship programs gather more funds and put them to work. An increase in the amount of funds being gathered required a separate financial structure which would allow the contributions to be tax deductible.

She believed programs and fund-raising could be combined into an ambitious building plan under the structure of an educational foundation. It was at the 1955 convention that it was voted to establish the Educational Foundation. Partnering with Lucy Howorth, they found land in Washington's Foggy Bottom neighborhood. Within a year a building was under construction. And the response from the membership made it unnecessary to use the million dollar mortgage that Concordia had arranged. In July of 1960 AAUW moved into the new building, unencumbered by debt.

In 1958 the Foundation received tax exempt status. The first endowment was launched with five thousand dollars from the administrative reserve and a gift of five thousand dollars from Frances Concordia's husband. The Educational Foundation spurred new giving and 9 fellowships that were given in 1940. These fellowships expanded to 74 in 1960 and 107 in 1963. EF fellowships and research grants have continued to grow because members believe in supporting women working to find new areas of research and helping them meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Hats off to Frances Concordia and those who worked with her to make the Educational Foundation a reality.

Anne Henke, AAUW CA EF assistant

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## *A note from Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette*

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OML Branch announces the approval and opening of a new Research and Projects Community Action Grant!

Named for: **Joan "JO" D Harberson**, the grant will further honor the dedicated work that Jo has accomplished and continues to undertake at all levels of AAUW.

She was selected by the OML EF Committee and approved on October 21st by a majority vote of the Elected and Appointed Voting Officers of the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of AAUW.

The Association Board of Directors approval of this new endowment fund was made in Washington, DC on November 5, 2007 with paperwork completed on November 12.

The Educational Foundation Research and Projects Grant Program funds both Career development grants and Community action grants. OML Branch has been approved to complete a Community Action grant, which requires funding \$75,000 over the next 10 years. These grants, awarded for one or two years, support individual, branch and state projects that further the mission of AAUW by promoting education and equity for women and girls in schools and local communities.

When completed this Community Action grant will provide seed money to women, AAUW branches, AAUW state organizations, and local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls.

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## ***Public Policy--National***

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On November 9, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller (D-CA) introduced the College Opportunity and Affordability Act (H.R. 4137), a bill to reauthorize and reform the Higher Education Act. The Senate passed (95-0) its version of the HEA renewal (S. 1642) in July.

Thanks to the hard work of AAUW members and coalition partners, we are pleased to announce that the House version of the bill addresses many of the priorities that AAUW has been working on for years to make the dream of a higher education a reality for more women. One of AAUW's recommendations included in the bill is the creation of the Patsy Mink Graduate Fellowship program, intended to help diversify the pool of higher education professors. Appropriately named in honor of former Congresswoman Patsy Mink (D-HI), an AAUW member and primary force behind the passage of Title IX, the fellowships would be targeted at minorities and women pursuing a doctorate or terminal degree, and would include a service requirement to teach at an institution of higher education after graduation. Other AAUW recommendations included in the bill are funding for a study to examine gender and racial equity among senior faculty at colleges and universities and a study on gender and other biases present in standardized tests that colleges and universities use in admissions. AAUW has worked hard to promote science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education for women and girls, and we're pleased that the legislation funds a campaign to expand the population of qualified individuals in STEM fields, specifically analyzing factors that limit the participation of women and minorities.

AAUW also worked hard to ensure this legislation took important steps towards providing nontraditional students - who are primarily women - greater access to higher education and financial aid. This bill expands SMART Grant eligibility to include part-time students and makes Pell grants available on a year-round basis. In addition, AAUW pushed for a provision of the bill that would expand the definition of hate crimes on campus to parallel that used by the FBI, giving parents and students a more accurate sense of campus safety and administrators a better picture of their campus climate. AAUW is also pleased to report increased support for campus child care programs.

Other highlights of the bill include provisions to address the private student loan scandals that have been recently brought to light, encouraging colleges to

rein in price increases and provide students and their parents with helpful college cost information, and provisions to streamline the federal student loan application process. The bill would also provide for advance information on textbook pricing to help students and families better plan for expenses.

AAUW is proud of the work that its staff and members have done to get these important provisions in this bill. Now it's time to make sure our elected officials know it's important to keep them there.

Stay "up-to-date" on National issues: ***Washington Update*** is AAUW's free, members-only weekly e-bulletin. It offers an insider's view on the legislative process, the latest policy news, resources for advocates, programming ideas, and updates from the Public Policy and Government Relations Department. To stay up-to-date on all issues important to our mission, all AAUW members, including college and university partners, are encouraged to subscribe to Washington Update by emailing [VoterEd@aauw.org](mailto:VoterEd@aauw.org).

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## ***Silent Auction***

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There will be a silent auction at the December Holiday Brunch. Please think about items you could contribute that someone else would enjoy winning. Holiday decorations, plants, gift items, food, wine - your imagination is the limit.

If you want to buy tickets for the silent auction (raffle), please bring some return address stickers to save time and make your name easy to read on the tickets.

Volunteers are needed to help the auction run smoothly. A new coordinator is sought. Jean Simutis has the supplies and can be helpful. Tasks to be done include setting up the items before the auction, with labeled containers for the tickets. Selling tickets. Bringing baskets decorated for the ticket sellers. Announcing winners. Distributing prizes to the winners.

If you want to volunteer, please contact Jean.

Because there is a 49er game later in the day, 49er booth volunteers may be leaving before the auction is over.

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## ***49er Days are here again!***

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Need a break from holiday shopping? Our 49er season is coming to an end....and we still NEED YOUR HELP!!!!!! Can you spare a day to help us out?

If you have been checking with our Budget Reports, you will know that we have been doing very nicely at generating revenue with our participation in the 49er Games. Hurry! We only have three games left! And they are all full of celebration as all these games are in December.

Your help is needed, especially in these December games. We are doing just fine in getting the number of volunteers that we need to each game; however, most of the volunteers are coming from other groups. Please help us keep a larger share in our own Branch by volunteering for just one game. Or invite someone you know to help with just one game. If you can volunteer for just one game, that would be a HUGE help. Call Ronni. This is a great way to earn money!

The dates for the remaining games are:

**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

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## ***Next Board Meeting***

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The December Board Meeting will be at Joanne Brown's on Monday, December 3 at 7 p.m. All members are welcome to attend. Try coming....you might learn something!

The January meeting will be on January 7.



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## ***Our Tech Trek girls***

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### ***...and Barnes & Noble***

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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 Carol. 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?")

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## ***Section Meetings***

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**Evening Book:** We will have our annual dinner and book exchange at La Veranda on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:00 pm. Please make your reservation with me by Saturday, December 8th. Come join us for a good time!

Helen Nelson

**Afternoon Book:** We will meet for lunch at the Spaghetti Factory in downtown Concord, across from Todo Santos Park on Monday, December 10 at 1:00. We will discuss A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini. Call Lucille for more info.

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## ***e-news***

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Thanks to Bev Crane, we are now putting our newsletter (sans phone numbers) on our Concord AAUW Website. "What website," you say.... Well, check out !

<http://www.aauw-concord.org/>

**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.

**AAUW launched its newly redesigned website in September.** The new site offers an updated look, as well as a streamlined structure that helps visitors locate information quickly. Finding all the tools you need to support AAUW's mission has never been easier! Visit [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) to see the new site for yourself. Check it out!

Presidential Primaries and Caucuses Are Coming!  
 Election Day 2008 is less than one year away. And this cycle, the primary elections and caucuses start in January, so you'll need to start preparing now to ensure women's voices and issues are heard on Election Day, Nov. 4, 2008.

**Encourage Other Women to Vote:** Talk to other women and encourage them to register to vote and get involved.

**Be Sure That You Are Registered to Vote:** Make sure your voter information is current: If you have moved since the last election, then you will need to re-register as many as 30 days before the election.

**Get Informed:** Read AAUW's *Congressional Voting Record for the 109th Congress* to find out how your elected officials voted on issues important to women and girls.




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***Set Aside These Dates...***

December 7	Barnes and Noble for Tech Trek	December 11	Evening Book
December 7-8	Holiday Home Tour--Danville/Alamo	December 15	HOLIDAY BREAKFAST 49ers vs. Cincinnati
December 9	49ers vs. Minnesota	December 23	49ers vs. Tampa Bay
December 10	Afternoon Book	January 19	GENERAL MEETING

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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.

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Concord AAUW  
 PO Box 434  
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AMERICAN  
 ASSOCIATION OF  
 UNIVERSITY  
 WOMEN



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**