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# THE CONCORD CORRESPONDENT

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American Association of University Women Concord, California Branch  
Monthly Newsletter for January, 2008

Volume 2008 Issue #1

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## Gateway to Senior Services in the Community

**What:** January General Meeting

**When:** Saturday January 19

**Time:** 10:00AM

**Where:** Concord Police Dept Community Room,  
1350 Galindo Street, Concord, CA 94520  
Phone (925) 671-3220

The January meeting will be an informative session that will address caregiver concerns and senior services that our offered within the Contra Costa County. We welcome Arlene Phillips, manager of John Muir Senior Services, Karen Barnes of East Bay Contra Costa Hospice Services, and Jesse Walters of All Valley Home Care Health as they provide valuable information and help that will assist us in decisions for our loved ones.

Topics for discussion will included Transportation, Support Groups, Finding Care at home, Hiring In-Home Help, Consumer and Legal Assistance, Screenings, Medical Supplies, and Assisted Living and Residential Placement Agencies.

Please Join us on January 19.





**Concord Branch AAUW**

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

Permit #166  
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Concord, CA 94522

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*from your President...*

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Hi All-

I'm hoping your holidays were full of family, friends and fun.

The AAUW-Concord Holiday Brunch was very successful with many of you in attendance and we all agreed that a brunch can be repeated again. There were great prizes on the silent auction table and the CVHS Women's Chorale was fabulous. (Thanks Lana!) They are headed for New York and it was easy to see why they win so many awards.

Saturday morning we elected Monica Johnston and Joanne Brown to serve on the nominating committee and the board will appoint Maile Collmer and 2 others to join the group. If you have any suggestions or wish to be considered for a leadership position please contact one of them as soon as possible.

It is my pleasure to announce that we made over \$950 at the Barnes and Noble Bookfair thanks to Karen Maurer, Terri Almeida, Darby Lockett, Doris Maguire, Lucille Rudik, Andrea Proctor, Betty Hirsch, Luz Argyriou, Jean Warren, Linda Haggerty and Monica Johnston. That will send one more girl to Tech Trek - thanks to all of you who shopped there on that Friday and contributed to the success.

February 2 in Sacramento the Legal Advocacy Fund Luncheon will feature Coach Michael Burch who will share his compelling story of his fight for the women wrestlers at UC Davis. The cost is \$30 per person and we are hoping a group from Concord can make the trip. Please contact me if you are thinking about it . . . we must have our reservations in by January 24th. Here's to a great 2008!

Carol Slatten

**Adopted Family**

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We shopped....we wrapped.....we delivered! Thank you so much for participating in this year's Adopted Family project. With your generous help, we went into "Shop 'til you Drop" mode and were able to provide our two families with much needed and appreciated clothing, household items, food and some nice TOYS!!!! These families were both in desperate need and REALLY appreciated your gifts. The mom's had tears in their eyes, as we unloaded our bags of goodies. We managed to deliver while the children were in school, so the bicycle was "hidden" at a neighbor's home until Santa could surprise little \_\_\_ on Christmas morning.

Thanks go to all of you who generously provided us with time, funds, wrapping skills and good wishes as these two elves "did our thing"! You are a great bunch of ladies!

Phyllis Nishimori and Betty Hirsch

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## **Member News...**

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Welcome to Teri Almeida and Beverly Murry, new members to our branch. We are all looking forward to getting to know you.

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## **Section Meetings**

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**Evening Book:** We will have our meeting on January 8th at Helen Nelson's home at 7:30. We will review the book, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa Lee. See you there...  
Helen Nelson, 682-0511

**Afternoon Book:** We will meet at the home of Ellen Hague on Monday, January 14 at 1:00 pm. The book to review is *Playing for Pizza*, by John Grisham. It is a good holiday book to enjoy.

Lucille Rudik, 686-9165

This month, **Wine and Whine** will be held at Freda Hammes home on January 11 at 7pm. This month wine selection will be New Zealand and Australian. Freda's address is 3455 San Gabriel Dr., Concord CA 94518. Please RSVP at 686-6176

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## **for the Traveler...**

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There is a great travel class offered at the Senior Center which may be of interest to some of you (and your spouses/partners)! Joyce Jacobs and Frede Hammes have been attending and recommend it to you:

### **Cultural Studies for the Traveler (Active or Armchair)**

**SEE** Colorful videos/slides of exciting places around the world.

**DISCOVER** the unique character and historical significance of selected countries.

**SHARE** the stories of your own travels, actual and imagined.

**SHARE** advice and travel tips.

**LEARN** about different places, close to home or far away.

**MEET** people with a shared interest in travel and hear their stories.

**DREAM** about an exciting (or peaceful) getaway to far away places.

Join this group at the Concord Senior Center for MDUSD's Captivating Travel Class #96603003, January 15-March 25. 9:30 - 11:00 am. Cost is \$25.00. For more info, give Frede Hammes a call!

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## **Next Board Meeting**

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The January meeting will be on January 7.

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## **Great Decisions for 2008**

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The Concord-Clayton Great Decisions discussion group will organize again to meet for eight weeks starting in February. Great Decisions is a program of the Foreign Policy Association and is America's longest-standing global affairs education program. It features in-depth articles on various timely topics which groups across the country read about and discuss in eight weekly meetings.

The topics for 2008 include Talking to Our Enemies, Latin America: Shift to the Left, Iraq Endgame, Russia, U.S.-China Trade Policy, The European Union at 50, U.S. Defense and Security Policy, and Private Philanthropy. The topic Briefing Books have been ordered and should arrive in early January. There may be one or two extra copies if you did not order a book earlier. To put your name on the list for any extra books, contact Joanne Brown (jbrownaauw@astound.net) or JoAnn Caspar (gaycaspar@aol.com). The cost will be around \$17 this year.

If you haven't attended before, contact one of us for questions or further information. The group generally meets on Monday at 3:30 p.m. during February and March. Newcomers are always welcome.

Joanne Brown, 925/676-9048



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## ***Public Policy***

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**Updates:** Here are just a few of this year's AAUW Action Network successes:

\* Improved opportunities for women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields and addressed the shortage of highly qualified STEM teachers with the enactment of the America COMPETES Act. Action Network members supported STEM legislation throughout the year, ensuring earlier passage in the House of the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Act.

\* Supported successful passage of the Higher Education Act Reauthorization in the Senate and unanimous committee passage in the House (look for final passage next year). Action Network members helped ensure that the bills contain many priorities that AAUW has been working on for years, including the creation of the Patsy Mink Graduate Fellowship program and the expansion of SMART and Pell grant eligibility.

\* Increased awareness of the wage gap between men and women through the promotion of AAUW's report, Behind the Pay Gap, and through programming based on AAUW's Pay Equity Resource Kit and forwarding Equal Pay Day e-cards across the country.

### **ACTION Items**

**New AAUW Website:** AAUW has a newly designed website! I especially encourage each member to check out the public policy page, <http://capwiz.com/aauw/home/>, where you can find information on elected officials, issues & legislation, election & candidates, and an outstanding guide to media. Related links (on the sidebar) include AAUW legislative agenda, Two-Minute Activist, Congressional Voting Records, AAUW Lobby Corps and more.

**Update Voter Information:** 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.

**Encourage Other Women to Vote:** Forward AAUW's e-card to other women and encourage them to register to vote and get involved. Read AAUW's Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout: A Manual for Community-Based Campaigns to Mobilize Women to Vote for tips on how you and your branch can help more women get to the polls.

Learn more about AAUW's Voter Education Campaign, and 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.

**Special Reports:** AAUW is encouraging branches to implement AAUW voter registration and education campaigns. Branches that undertake such campaigns should be aware of other groups that are mobilizing in similar ways so that branches can be as effective as possible. Here is a sample of voter registration campaigns across the US:

#### *National campaigns targeting young Americans*

\* **Declare Yourself:** national nonpartisan, nonprofit campaign to reach every eligible 18-year-old in the US to register and vote. Partners with Yahoo!, MySpace, Google and others ([http://www.declareyourself.com/about\\_us/about\\_us.html](http://www.declareyourself.com/about_us/about_us.html)).

\* **New Voters Project:** a national nonpartisan, nonprofit campaign to register young people and get them to vote ([www.newvotersproject.org](http://www.newvotersproject.org)).

\* **Rock the Vote:** a non-profit, non-partisan organization, founded in 1990 in response to a wave of attacks on freedom of speech and artistic expression. Rock the Vote engages youth in the political process by incorporating the entertainment community and youth culture into its activities ([www.rockthevote.com](http://www.rockthevote.com)).

\* **WWE's Smackdown Your Vote!:** an "apartisan" campaign to encourage young people to become active participants in their democracy and vote (<http://vote.wwe.com/>).

\* **Voto Latino:** Founded in 2004, Voto Latino works to promote an enfranchised America by leveraging celebrity voices, the latest technology and youth themselves to promote positive change (<http://www.votolatino.org/>).

#### *National campaigns targeting Hispanic Americans*

\* **Fundacion Azteca America:** the non-profit arm of Azteca America dedicated to improving the lives of U.S. Latino residents, presents its voter registration campaign, "Nuestro Grito" (<http://www.hispanictips.com/2007/09/17/fundacion-azteca-america-launches-2007-voter-registration-campaign-nuestro-grito-conjunction-with-hispanic-heritage-month/>).

\* **Vota por tu futuro (Vote for your future):** a national campaign run by Telemundo Communications Group, a Spanish language TV programming (<http://www.multichannel.com/article/CA6485503.html>).

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## ***AAUW'S Action Network***

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### Celebrate Action Network Successes in 2007!

Thank you for playing an integral role in AAUW's success in moving the mission forward this year. Your advocacy and that of tens of thousands of others in our nationwide network of e-activists has helped AAUW make an impact on public policy issues throughout 2007. The growing power and reach of Action Network can claim some impressive achievements. Just consider that over the past year, together, we have:

- \* Successfully advocated for the enactment of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill. AAUW actively supported this new law and similar bills for addressing increasing college costs and burdensome student debt, increasing access to higher education in general and for women in particular.

- \* Ensured a pay increase for nearly 7 million women by successfully advocating for the enactment of the first minimum wage increase in nearly 10 years.

- \* Improved opportunities for women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields and addressed the shortage of highly qualified STEM teachers with the enactment of the America COMPETES Act. Action Network members supported STEM legislation throughout the year, ensuring earlier passage in the House of the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Act.

- \* Supported successful passage of the Higher Education Act Reauthorization in the Senate and unanimous committee passage in the House (look for final passage next year). Action Network members helped ensure that the bills contain many priorities that AAUW has been working on for years, including the creation of the Patsy Mink Graduate Fellowship program and the expansion of SMART and Pell grant eligibility.

- \* Increased awareness of the wage gap between men and women through the promotion of AAUW's report, *Behind the Pay Gap*, and through programming based on AAUW's Pay Equity Resource Kit and forwarding Equal Pay Day e-cards across the country.

- \* Convinced the House to take the first critical step towards maintaining critical pay discrimination laws with the successful passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Action Network members continue to push for the Senate to take the next step by passing the Fair Pay Restoration Act, which will counter the Supreme Court's wrongheaded decision in the *Ledbetter v. Goodyear* case.

- \* Increased to 226 the number of House cosponsors of Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill that

includes needed updates to the Equal Pay Act, and continued our work towards passage of this legislation.

- \* Successfully passed hate crimes legislation in the House and an amendment in the Senate, and ensured that an improvement of hate crimes data collection on campuses was included in the House Higher Education Act reauthorization bill.

- \* Preserved critical federal regulations on the Family Medical Leave Act. Action Network members submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Labor, ensuring continued federal support of the law in its current form.

- \* Strengthened our voice on Capitol Hill through a 20 percent increase in advocacy messages from Action Network members through AAUW's Two-Minute Activist. Another 20,000 letters were sent to the Hill on behalf of AAUW members from the Public Policy and Government Relations Department.

- \* Put a face to our voice with approximately 1,800 visits to members of Congress by AAUW's Capitol Hill Lobby Corps.

- \* Increased attendance and raised issues of importance to women at elected officials' town hall meetings across the nation throughout the year.

- \* Prepared women voters to be ready to go to the polls in the upcoming primaries and caucuses.

- \* ***Held members of Congress accountable*** for their votes using the AAUW Congressional Voting Record. Action Network members thanked their elected officials who voted with AAUW on priority issues and expressed their disappointment to those officials who did not support our position.

- \* Increased awareness of public policy issues and advancements through a 50 percent increase in subscribers to *Washington Update*, AAUW's member's-only weekly e-bulletin for public policy leaders.

Also, hundreds of Action Network members responded to the challenge to write letters to the editors of their local papers to increase awareness on a variety of topics including:

- \* AAUW's priorities for the new Congress
- \* Celebrating Women's History Month
- \* Celebrating Equal Pay Day
- \* The Paycheck Fairness Act
- \* Celebrating Title IX's Anniversary
- \* Celebrating Women's Equality Day
- \* Publicizing the gender wage gap using AAUW's report, *Behind the Pay Gap*

You can see just a few of the published letters in AAUW's Newsroom.

AAUW urges you to resolve in the New Year to help others speak their mind, too! Help Action Network grow and be even more of a force in our nation's capital. Urge your friends and family to join AAUW and AAUW's Action Network today!

## *Eliminate Gender Bias in Science Fields*

A recent National Academies report, *Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering*, found that women repeatedly face biases in academia in the science fields, and that these barriers to success discourage them from careers in these areas. In response to this report, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) recently introduced the Gender Bias Elimination Act (H.R. 3514).

This important piece of legislation directly addresses concerns raised in the National Academies report by authorizing workshops that educate university department chairs, agency program officers, and others on reducing and eliminating gender bias for women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Under this act, agencies that fund scientific research-like the National Institute of Health and the National Science Foundation-will also be directed to better enforce existing federal anti-discrimination laws (including Title IX), assess the workplace climate, publish

demographic and funding data for grant applications, and extend grant support for researchers on leave for caregiving duties.

Declining interest in science and a shortage of American scientists is a threat to American competitiveness on a national scale, problems that are exacerbated by the low numbers of women and girls from STEM fields. The Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology's report *Professional Women and Minorities* states that women now comprise 25 percent of the labor force in STEM fields. If women and members of other traditionally underrepresented groups joined the STEM workforce in proportion to their representation in the overall labor force, the shortage of STEM professionals would disappear.

AAUW supports promoting and strengthening STEM education, especially for women and other underrepresented populations in the fields. AAUW believes this legislation remove barriers to success and encourage more women to choose careers in STEM fields.

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

January 7      Board Meeting  
January 8      Evening Book  
January 11     Wine and Whine

January 14     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.



Concord AAUW  
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AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**