
THE CONCORD CORRESPONDENT

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

Volume 2008 Issue #4

Tuesday, April 22, 2008 is National Equal Pay Day!

Equal Pay Day was originated by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996 as a public awareness event to illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages. The day, observed on a Tuesday in April, symbolizes how far into the year a woman must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned the previous year. (Tuesday is the day on which women's wages catch up to men's wages from the previous week.). The wage gap is even greater for most women of color (<http://www.pay-equity.org/day.html>).

Women's earnings in 2006 were 76.9% of men's, leaving the wage gap statistically unchanged from 2005. However, small increases were seen for 2006 median earnings of women of color compared to 2005 (<http://www.pay-equity.org/>).

The Fair Pay Restoration Act (S.1843), drafted in response to the Supreme Court's ruling in Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, which held that employees must sue for pay discrimination within the current 180-day statute of limitations, would permit employees to sue employers for wage discrimination even if the discrimination was discovered after 180 days.

Take ACTION on National Equal Pay Day!

- * Make a purchase from a women-owned business.
- * If you own a business or work as a consultant, verify that your service fees are similar to your competitor's fees or higher if you offer a superior service.
- * If you have a business with employees, audit initial salary offerings, merit increases, and promotions to assess payment equity for employees in these areas.
- * Share your best pay-equity tip with your daughter, a friend, or an AAUW member.

* Contact your legislative representative and ask them to support the Fair Pay Restoration Act. Check <http://www.pay-equity.org/info-leg.html> for legislators' addresses).

~ Monica Johnston

\$ While women's wages have gone up in all states since 1989, at this rate the wage gap won't close until 2057 (*The Best and Worst State Economies for Women*, December 2006, The Institute for Women's Policy Research (<http://www.pay-equity.org/info.html>)).

	Median Earnings*	% of Men's Earnings
Men	\$42,261	
Women	\$32,515	76.9
African American women	\$30,352	71.8
Latinas	\$25,198	59.6
Asian American women	\$39,313	93

*Based on full-time, year-round workers, 2006.



Concord Branch AAUW

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from your President...

Hi All-

I want to apologize for being out of town so much recently (and for the next two weeks) and want to thank all those on the board who have picked up the pieces and seen that our group's activities continue without a hitch. We couldn't ask for better representatives to the state convention - Jean Simutis and Elaine Groen. I know they will come back with lots of ideas for making our branch even more vital. A gift basket with English Bone China cups and saucers and a cake plate was donated by Celeste Graham - we trust it will garner many bids at the State Convention Silent Auction. Thank you Celeste.

Don't forget the May 2nd Barnes and Noble bookfair for LAF and Tech Trek. We timed this day to come before Mothers' Day and hope you can plan to give books as gifts. You will note that the vouchers (3 in this issue) can be used May 2 (Friday) through May 5 (Monday) so if you can't get out there when our table is up on Friday you can still use the voucher on the following days. This may prove a real boon to our fund raising. Please feel free to copy the vouchers and hand them out to your friends and neighbors as our table will only be up on Friday.

Carol

Program Notes...

There will be no General Meeting this month. We will be taking a break from program in April. There was a lack of interest in the proposed Deyoung Musuem adventure. Please save the date for May 17 for Brunch at Marie Calendars in Concord from 9am-1pm.

"But I'll miss seeing my AAUW friends!" you say??? Well...why not attend one of our section meetings? How about calling a couple of AAUW friends and asking them to lunch? Call an AAUW friend and tell her about the fun things that are going on in your life! Send 3 AAUW friends a "for no reason" note or email.....and start planning now to come to our great end of the AAUW year celebration: Annual Scholarship Brunch! This is the one where we meet and hear from our chosen scholars. You won't want to miss it!

Update from the EF/CEF Committee

We are pleased to announce the following individual contributions which have thus far been made this spring: EF \$180 and CEF \$1,335. (The EF total does not include contributions which were sent directly through Jo Harbeson.) We thank the members so very much for your ongoing support.

Betty Hirsch and Andrea Proctor

Member News...

We are so sorry to report that **Margaret Hachenbracht's** husband Dick passed away last month. Please give her a call or send her a note to let her know you are thinking of her.

Sandy Hartman has moved!!! "We are now in our condo in Scotts Valley. Our new email is snhart@att.net Our address is 111 Bean Creek Rd., #105 Scotts Valley, CA 95066. Our phone number is 831-439-2048. It is beautiful and warm here. I can't wait to get done unpacking and get outside. Laurie said there are orcas in the bay today. I hope they stay around for a few days."

Joanne Brown recently had back surgery. She sends her thanks: "Thank you everyone for your great cards, phone calls, flowers and gifts. Each and every one of them has really brightened my day. I'm on the road to recovery. Joanne"

Section Meetings

Evening Book: Our book this month is *One Good Turn*, by Kate Atkinson. We will meet on April 2 at 7:30 at the home of Helen Nelson. Join us!

Helen Nelson, 682-0511

Afternoon Book: We The book to read is *Sweetness in the Belly* by Camilla Gibb. Our April meeting will be on Monday, April 14 at 1:00. Members will be called.

Lucille Rudik, 686-9165

BUNCO: The Bunco group will meet on Wed., April 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Andrea Proctor's. Please call Andrea by Apr. 12 if you would like to join us. Anyone can play and each person donates \$5.

Nominations for 2008-09 Board

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for the Concord Branch for 2008-09:

President	Carol Slatten
President-Elect	Vacant
VP Program	Lana Hanlon
VP Membership	Joyce Jacobs
VP Ed. Fdn.	Betty Hirsch & Andrea Proctor
Treasurer	Jean Simutis
Recording Sec.	Elaine Groen

Thank you to our nominating committee :
Joanne Brown, Chair, Luz Argyriou, Maile Collmer, Monica

Dues Renewal Time!!!

It's spring again and annual AAUW dues are due. As in the past, we will have the drawing at the May meeting and if your check is in the basket you might win a free year of membership. You can't beat that deal. We really appreciate it if you pay your dues before June 30th as our paperwork is reduced.

The Dues for 2008-2009 are: Association \$49, California \$16 and Branch \$13

Regular Members pay \$78

Life Members pay \$29

Dual Members pay \$13

Honorary Life Members pay \$0 because they paid dues for 50 years. If you joined AAUW in 1958 or earlier, and you have maintained your membership, please let us know. We will apply for Honorary Life Membership for you.

If you would like to become a paid Life Member of the Association, the amount is 20 times the association dues, plus annual state and branch dues. This comes to: (20 x 49) +16 + 13 or \$1009. In future years you only pay state and branch dues and avoid association increases. This is a very good deal if you plan to stay in AAUW more than 20 years.

If the \$78 payment doesn't fit your budget right now, contact the membership treasurer (Celeste Graham, 676-7525). It's easy to set up a partial payment plan.

Celeste Graham
1201 Monument Blvd. #32, Concord, Ca 94520
cqgraham@yahoo.com



Public Policy ~ California

Upcoming Events

April 5: Public Policy Breakfast at the California AAUW Convention. Get updated on AAUW-CA's legislative positions from Charlotte Newhart, AAUW-CA Legislative Advocate, talk with AAUW members who are interested in public policy, and enjoy a tasty breakfast.

~ Monica Johnston

Tech Trek

Concord Branch and the Tech Trek Committee extend a sincere thank-you to the Clayton Valley/Concord Sunrise Rotary Club for their donation to our Tech Trek fund. Because of the Rotary Club generosity and all the fundraising and personal donations of our members, we hope to present three camperships to Oak Grove Middle School this year. And personal thanks to Ken Nishimori for his Rotary Club assistance.

Joanne Brown & Jean Warren
Tech Trek Co-Chairs

CC County Library Reading Festival

The Contra Costa County Library is celebrating its first annual Reading Festival the weekend of May 16,17, & 18. Some 50 nationally known and local authors will speak at 25 community libraries throughout Contra Costa County.

There will be authors and activities for everyone – adults, teens, and children. To create a festive atmosphere there will be other programs such magicians, balloons, flowers, and food.

At the Concord Community Library, Daniel and Robert San Souci will be talking about his books on Saturday, May 17 at 1:00 p.m. and there will be a special Magic Show featuring the “Runaway Bunny” with Magician Bill Sparacino at 3:00 p.m. On Sunday, May 18, “Funny in Farsi” author Firoozeh Dumas will talk about her new book at 2:00 p.m. at the Willow Pass Center. For more information about the Reading Festival or for a list of authors and where they are appearing, go to the Contra Costa County Library web site at ccllib.org.

Do you shop online?????

Remember to shop through iGive. This is an easy way to give money to the Concord Branch Tech Trek Fund without writing a check.

We recently received a check for \$25.18 from a few purchases made on line over the past year. If you and your friends shop and renew magazines and buy plane tickets online, we could get larger checks more often.

Since 2003, we have earned over \$190, with only 9 shoppers. Just think how well we could do with more shoppers. You don't need to be an AAUW member. Invite your family and friends to join and support us.

Register at iGive.com and ask that your donations go to AAUW Concord Branch. Then, just remember to go through iGive when you shop.

There are over 680 participating websites. You can buy just about anything. A few of the store websites include

ABT Electronics	Hotwire
Ann Taylor	JCPenney
Apple Store	JCWhitney
Barnes & Noble	Lands' End
Blockbuster Online	LEGO
Buy.com	Macy's
Coldwater Creek,	MLB.com
Cooking.com	Office Depot
Drugstore.com	Oriental Trading
FAO Schwartz	TimeLife.com
FTD.com	ValueMags
Harry & David	Travelocity.com
Hotels.com	United Airlines

If you want a guided tour, call Jean Simutis. She'll come over and help you sign up. Or ask her to invite you. She can send your email address to iGive and you'll receive an invitation to join.



Board Meeting Highlights

March 3, 2008

Lana reviewed a conversation she held with Karen Barnes, one of our January speakers (from East Bay CC Hospice Services). The panel was so impressed with the numbers of people we attracted to that event; they would like to repeat it in East County. Lana supplied them with the information for the Delta Branch. The panel also wants Concord Branch to consider doing their program again as a fund raiser. This was tabled until Lana receives more information.

Lana offered that, in speaking with the Delta Branch representative, she learned that they had had a successful fund raiser by having a dinner with Gary Bogue as the speaker. He is a representative of Lindsey Museum, writes the Pet column in the Contra Costa Times and is well-known locally. The Board advised Lana to consider such a program for 2008-2009.

Tech Trek—Carol reported that Joanne Brown has elicited 29 names from Oak Grove Middle School. The committee will be meeting with them this week. When applications and essays are received, the committee will cut the list to manageable number for the interviews. Jean Warren and Darby Lockett have agreed to handle the committee during Joanne Brown's surgery and recuperation.

LAF--Carol reported that Concord Branch has been reserved for Barnes and Noble on May 2 and December 5 for fundraising.

Monica Johnson has suggested that we use this fundraiser to raise enough funds in one area to be considered in the "top five" at State AAUW. Jean and Elaine will obtain information at the State Convention in April. This information will be brought to the Board for further consideration.

EF-CEF Andrea reported an attendance of 46 people at the February Luncheon. Up to today, the group had elicited \$1415--\$1235 for CEF and \$180 for EF. In addition, several members wrote checks to the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund which is also part of EF. Andrea reported that Betty requested of Jo Harbeson a listing of contributors so that we can report that money as part of our EF donation. The committee plans to fund six \$1000 scholarships.

The May Brunch is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. at Marie Calendars on Saturday, May 17. It was again decided

not to have a Silent Auction. Scholarship winners will be honored as well as the Named Gift person and the Distinguished Woman. The new Board will be announced. Lana reported that we have the room until 1:00 p.m. so we should not feel rushed as we did for the Holiday Brunch.

Membership—Carol reported that 2 prospective members attended the Wine and Whine evening. Concord Branch has 72 members, but is listed as having only 63 in the State records. This error shows us declining by 15%. In actuality, we are down only two members (and even if these two join) which is a 3% decline. Carol will contact State to ensure the correct amounts are listed.

New Business

Andrea made a motion that Concord Branch send Elaine Groen and Jean Simutis to the State Convention as delegates. This was seconded and approved.

Carol reported that dues will increase to \$78.00. The bill and the new updated Barnes and Noble vouchers will be placed in the April newsletter.

Correspondence

Carol has also received a letter from Chris Takata who coordinated the Concord Big Read Project. In it, she lauds Concord Branch AAUW for the role the branch played in distributing informational materials to businesses. The Big Read plans a "Public Reading Festival" on May 17 and 18. Chris expressed a desire to attend one of our branch meetings to share the results of Big Read and to get our involvement in this festival. The festival itself is scheduled on the same day as our May meeting.

Carol will be asking for the amount of our contribution to the Lilly/Wushner Projects Grant Fund so that we can include it in our list of contributions.

Respectfully Submitted, Elaine Groen, Secretary



AAUW's Newly Revised Community Action Guide to Mobilize Women Voters

"This is the most critical election in a generation, and AAUW is committed to ensuring that women's voices are heard at the polls. Making this valuable how-to manual available free on our website is a critical part of our voter education campaign."

- Lisa Maatz, AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations

AAUW's Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout guides advocates step-by-step through planning a campaign, which includes recruiting volunteers, working with publicly available voter registration files to identify drop-off women voters in their community, and contacting those women through canvassing and phone banking. In addition to the manual, other online tools include nonpartisan voter guide templates, e-cards, position papers, and AAUW's Congressional Voting Record for the 110th Congress, First Session.

"With approximately 100,000 bipartisan members and more than 1,000 branches, AAUW has the community connections to have a positive effect on the turnout of women voters," said Maatz. "The Woman-to-Woman program also stresses the value of continued outreach to drop-off women voters throughout the year, as well as the importance of educating women about policy issues important to them through public forums, candidate nights, and other community activities."

The methods detailed in the Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout manual were successfully used by AAUW branches and states in the 2006 midterm election to reach out to women in their communities. "AAUW expects this resource to be the centerpiece of its ongoing member-led voter education campaign and a catalyst for long-term efforts to increase voter turnout among women nationwide," said Maatz.s.

Set Aside These Dates...

April 8	Evening Book
April 14	Afternoon Book
April 16	Bunco
May 2-5	Barnes and Noble Book Fair for LAF/Tech Trek
May 17	GENERAL MEETING



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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AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED