
THE CONCORD CORRESPONDENT

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

Volume 2008 Issue #9

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

What: September General Meeting

When: Saturday, September 20

Time: 11:00am

Where: Frede Hammes's, Beautiful Backyard located at
3455 San Gabriel Dr., Concord CA 94518 686-6176

Cost: \$13

September is the start of the new year for Concord AAUW program's. Let's celebrate our yearly reunion in the lovely backyard of Frede Hammes. The tech trek girls have been invited, so once again we will relish in their excitement as these lovely girls share their camp experience. We will continue the meeting with business and section leaders discussions of what will be planned for 2008-2009.

Menu: We will be having Box lunches from Sunrise Bistro! Each lunch will include a fresh baked roll and butter, fresh fruit garnish...and dessert!

Salad Selections:

Thai Chicken Salad: Sliced chicken breast, steamed veggies, noodles and fresh greens with our sweet soy dressing



Greek Salad: Fresh spinach, feta, calamata olives and red onions with 2 pesto veggie arams. Italian dressing on the side

Sandwich Selections: Made with our own fresh baked breads includes mayo and mustard packets, lettuce, tomato, potato or pasta salad

Chicken Cashew Salad: Cashews, apples & celery and mayo

Roasted Veggie: Eggplant, zucchini, onions and bell peppers with pesto and roasted tomatoes

YOUR CHECK IS YOUR RESERVATION!

Please mail your check to Lana Hanlon at 2941 Prospect St., Concord CA 94518 **by Monday, September 15.** Write your menu choice on the check.

Backpack Project

This year, our adopted school Ygnacio Valley Elementary was lucky enough to be chosen by Costco as the recipient of 100+ filled backpacks. So.....we put decided to spread our wealth with an under-acknowledged group that needs some extra help.

Youth Homes is a non-profit organization which offers support for foster children up to the age of 18. They operate group homes (residential), offer therapeutic behavioral services and give help to some students who

are in foster care. Shelly Hirsch (yes, that is the daughter-in-law of Betty) is involved in this organization and they are very appreciative of our donation of your backpacks this year.

You will get this newsletter before we finish filling all the packs, but it looks like we'll have about 60 backpacks FILLED with school supplies for these kids.

THANK YOU, LADIES!!!! for your generosity again this year. We love being able to coordinate this project for you!

~~Phyllis Nishimori and Betty Hirsch



Concord Branch AAUW

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*Advancing equity for women
and girls through advocacy,
education, and research.*

from your President...

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are ready to enjoy a busy school year. Your board met on July 31st and discussed the upcoming plans for general meetings and Concord's 60th anniversary. The members of the board, especially Lana Hanlon and Monica Johnston, are planning interesting, timely and enjoyable programs and parties. The 49er schedule is in full swing and there is a great need for more volunteers - if you or a member of your family can assist in the Concord AAUW booth by pouring beer, please call Ronni Collmer. We get the lion's share of our budget from this enterprise. Please mark your calendars now and plan to support the Barnes & Noble AAUW-Concord book fair on December 5th. All proceeds go to Tech Trek.

I'm excited to introduce you to the new members we received over the summer:

Susie Castillo is a retired UC employee who graduated from CSU Fresno in Spanish and Economics. Her email address is: castsn1@peoplepc.com

Tonya Hawes is the corporate marketing manager for UltraCell. She has a BA in speech communications from SF State University and an MBA from University of Phoenix. Her email address is: tonya.hawes@yahoo.com

Michele Koski is the librarian at Carondelet and has a B.A. from Notre Dame de Namur and an MLIS from San Jose State. Her email address is: mkphantom26@hotmail.com

Trisha Walleen is a retired teacher from the Mt. Diablo Unified with a degree from Texas Women's College. She majored in education with minors in history and psychology.

Beverly Murray and Barbara Shubert have not sent in their information as yet.

We look forward to meeting these new members and welcoming them into the Concord Branch. A growing branch is a healthy one.

~~~Carol

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## AAUW on the Web!

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Want to know more about our organization? Visit the following sites and get up to speed!

Our AAUW homepage: <http://www.aauw.org>

Our own Concord AAUW homepage: <http://www.aauw-concord.org>

For membership resources: [www.aauw.org/member\\_center/resources/](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/resources/)

For membership info: [www.aauw.org/About/join/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/About/join/index.cfm)

For member benefits: [www.aauw.org/About/join/value/discounts.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/About/join/value/discounts.cfm)

Our new blog, AAUW Dialog, is a space to share, maintain and build social networks within our organization: <http://blog-aauw.org/>

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## *members corner*

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Please keep Barbara Hooy in your thoughts. Her husband Bill passed away on August 30. Give her a call or send her a card to let her know that you are thinking of her.

Congratulations to **Jean Warren** who received the Diablo Vista Retired Teachers Association's Honorary Merit Award for Distinguished Service at their June luncheon.

Jean was recognized for her many accomplishments: many years of being an educator, including teaching chemistry at Southwestern College in Winfield, KS, teaching in a two-room country school on the Colorado prairie, and teaching 29 years in the San Ramon USD; her work on the Monument Center Project and eye testing of preschoolers for amblyopia; and her years of service in DVRTA as an officer and volunteer.

Her name will be added to the plaque which hangs in the CCCOE building. Congratulations, Jean, on an award well-deserved!

**Jeannie Johnson** has a new address:  
3663 Terra Granada, WC 94595

**Christine Hwang** has also moved:  
1618 St. David Drive, Danville 94526  
ph. 548-3807 E-mail: chrishhwang@yahoo.com

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## *Northern EF Fellow Luncheon*

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The 2008-2009 AAUW Educational Foundation Fellows and Grant Recipients studying in northern California will be presented at a Fellows Luncheon on Sunday, October 26, 12:00-3:00 pm at the Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive, Danville, California 94526.

Since this is so close, we expect to have a large contingent from Concord Branch attend in Danville. The cost for the luncheon is \$30 and reservations must be made before October 13. If you are interested in attending, please let Betty Hirsch (679-7234) or Andrea Proctor (672-7847) know asap.

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## *Not computer savvy?*

### *Head back to school....*

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These days, it is becoming more and more important to be able to access information via computer ....whether you have one at home or use one at the library. If you are unfamiliar with computers or you are just feeling insecure about your computer skills, you may want to get up to speed by attending one of these inexpensive classes.

**Concord Senior Center:** these classes are held at the Senior Center

Sept. sessions (two separate classes—one for computer basics and another for internet):  
Basics of Computer – 9/8 to 9/29, Mondays – 9:30 – 10:30 - \$20  
Internet – 9/8/ to 9/20, Mondays – 10:45 to 11:45 - \$20

Oct. and Nov. sessions: Introduction to Computer and the Internet,  
Instructor: Mitra Shahrza  
Learn how to use the computer with basic elements about the computer.  
#81831 Fridays, October 3-Nov 7 10:45-11:45 am (6 classes) \$27  
#81832 Fridays, Nov. 14- Dec. 19 10:45 – 11:45 am (5 classes) \$22

### **Mt. Diablo – Lifelong Education**

Classes given at: Pleasant Hill Education Center, 1 Santa Barbara Lane, Pleasant Hill

Using Your Computer – Level 1  
Basics – using windows, web, and email

Times/dates/cost:  
12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, 9/9 – 10/7 – \$31  
8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Wednesday – 9/10 – 10/8 - \$31  
6 – 9 p.m. Thursday – 10/16 – 11/13 - \$31

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## *Interesting viewing*

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This inspiring video about AAUW serves as a powerful reminder of why our organization is still necessary in today's world. The video highlights AAUW's 125-year legacy, what it offers women today and why we still have work left to do. Log on to the video at:

[Http://www.aauw.org/About/aauwVideo.cvm](http://www.aauw.org/About/aauwVideo.cvm)

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## ***Tech Trek Campers Selected***

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This year we were able to send 3 girls to the Tech Trek Camp at Mills College this past June. They are from the 7th grade at Oak Grove Middle School and include Shuk Wai Lau, Shannon Barbour, and Nanise Ma'ake.

Their week long camp included hands-on classes and off-campus field trips using math, technology and science.

Our thanks to you who have contributed through fundraising activities or personal donation - every penny has been put to good use to cover each camper's \$800 tuition. The 3 young women will be invited to share their camp experience at our September meeting



*Left to right, our 2008 Tech Trek girls are Shuk Wai Lau, Shannon Barbour, and Nanise Ma'ake.*

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## ***Keep it green....get your newsletter via email!***

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You may want to think about getting your newsletter via email. If you like, we could add you to the e-list and you can see how you like it...then make your decision (mail or "e"). Just give Phyllis a call and we'll add you to our list.

Phyllis Nishimori (925) 671-0143  
or email: pnish@pacbell.net

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## ***Membership Drive***

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Joyce Jacobs, Membership VP and Celeste Graham, Membership Treasurer have launched a drive to bring more members into Concord Branch. (The new minimum requirements are an A.A. degree or equivalent.) A protocol of who does what was discussed at the summer board meeting. All members are asked to invite friends and neighbors to a section or general meeting as their guest. (Potential members may come to two affairs before needing to decide about membership.) Be sure and follow-up with a brochure that spells out the dues costs. If you need a brochure contact Joyce Jacobs (682-0409) and keep one in your purse. Our website is always a good source of information: <http://www.aauw-concord.org>

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## ***In Memoriam***

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Margaret Hackenbracht passed away in early August after a brief illness. She served faithfully and enthusiastically as AAUW-Concord's Public Policy co-chair and was so proud of her affiliation with AAUW. Her knowledge and interest in national and international affairs and her dedication to women's issues will be sorely missed. We'll also miss that gentle smile.

Graveside services were held for the family on August 13. there will be a memorial service held on Saturday, Oct. 11 at the Lutheran Church in Concord. For more information on this, give Helen Nelson a call.

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## ***Section Meetings***

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**Evening Book:** Evening Book will meet at Helen Nelsons home on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 7:30. We will review *Tall Grass* by Sandra Dallas. An interesting book about a Japanese Internment Camp during World War II. See you there. (The book for October will be *The Legends of Fire Horse Woman* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston.

Helen Nelson, 682-0511

**Afternoon Book:** We will meet on Monday, Sept. 8 at 1:00 at the home of Maryanne Lowe. The book to read is *World Without End* by Ken Follett .

Lucille Rudik, 686-9165

**Bunco:** Join us for Bunco--an easy dice game anyone can learn--on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 7 pm at Andrea Proctor's. Everyone donates \$5. Please give Andrea a call (672-7847) by Sept. 12 if you would like to play.

Andrea Proctor

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## ***Fall FUNdraising***

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You can be a part of our biggest and most successful fundraiser of recent history by helping fill our volunteer work crews for the 49er Games. We are fortunate in that we have one of the highest income producing booths in the entire stadium. The reason this booth offers high income potential is because of its location where we are the nearest and first source of refreshment to a huge section of the stadium. We have had the use of this booth for many years. Our records show that when we have a full crew of nine to ten people working, our income increases significantly.

In order to get the numbers we need for these games, we have invited other AAUW Branches and the American Legion to assist us, which they have been doing for several years. Jean and I are concerned, however, that with each year, our Concord Branch number of participants is dropping. Each year we are giving more and more of the earnings we achieve to these other groups – over several thousand dollars go to other groups, because our Concord Branch is not well represented.

We really need your help to keep more of this money within our branch. If you are not able to participate yourself, please ask other members of your family or friends if they can help. It takes a whole day commitment for each game, but all you do is show up, work the booth, then go home. We all carpool together, and it's a great way to get to know one another better. Call Jean or me if you have questions. Help us make this the best year ever!

Games are:

Sunday, September 7 – Arizona Cardinals  
Sunday, September 21 – Detroit Lions  
Sunday, October 5 – New England Patriots  
Sunday, October 12 – Philadelphia Eagles  
Sunday, October 26 – Seattle Seahawks  
Sunday, November 16 – St. Louis Rams  
Sunday, December 7 – NY Jets  
Sunday, December 28 – Washington Redskins

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## ***STILL SOME DUES DUE***

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Your dues must be paid by October 1<sup>st</sup> or you will cease to receive the Newsletter and will not be listed in Concord Connections. If you have any questions please call Celeste Graham at 676-7525.

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## ***Do you shop online?????***

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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    | Lands' End                           |
| Ann Taylor         | LEGO                                 |
| Apple Store        | Macy's                               |
| Barnes & Noble     | MLB.com                              |
| Blockbuster Online | Office Depot                         |
| Buy.com            | Oriental Trading                     |
| Coldwater Creek,   | TimeLife.com                         |
| Cooking.com        | ValueMags                            |
| Drugstore.com      | Travelocity.com                      |
| FAO Schwartz       | United Airlines                      |
| FTD.com            |                                      |
| Harry & David      | If you want a guided tour, call Jean |
| Hotels.com         | Simutis. She'll come over and help   |
| Hotwire            | you sign up. Or ask her to invite    |
| JCPenney           | you. She can send your email         |
| JCWhitney          | address to iGive and you'll receive  |
|                    | an invitation to join.               |

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## ***Concord Connections is being updated!***

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I'm going to try and have the new yearbook out in October. If you have additions and/or corrections, please send them to cslatten@comcast.net ASAP. If you have NOT paid your dues by October 1, you will have to be dropped from the book.

~~Carol Slatten

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## ***An update from the Afghan Friends Network....from Lana Hanlon***

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In June, I dropped off the the schools supplies that the Concord Branch had collected for Elsie Delare and Marianne O'Grady. Just a eminder, these are the lovely ladies who shared their experiences at the March program. They traveled five times to Afghanistan to conduct teacher training in an effort to help educate Afghan Children. Elsie told me a little bit about her trip to Ghor in March, but was very excited about a chance meeting in Dubai with an Ex-Military Colonel. I am sharing her latest email as an update of their adventures:

*Hi friends, colleagues and family,*

*Today is my last day here in Afghanistan, inshallah, I am heading out to Dubai tomorrow, staying for 2 nites, flying to Brussels next and staying a full day and nite with my mom in an airport hotel there. Should be home August 15. I have had some of the most amazing experiences ever during the trip to Khost province with Marianne O'Grady . This trip to this rather volatile area on the Pakistani border could not have happened had it not been for my friend Gary, a retired US Military Colonel who has been training Afghan Military commandos in Khost. I met him on my flight back from Kabul this past spring and hearing about what I am doing asked me and Mare to do a teacher training there. Our week long trip included flying in small planes over very amazing mountains and flying back in a USAID helicopter. It also included driving with flak vest and helmet in armored humvees. At the governor's house, we were provided with a few of his guards and they slept outside our bedroom doors. We had expected 60 teachers but got a "swarm" of 120 teachers instead, showing up the first day, eagerly awaiting to learn something. We were on TV twice...first independent teachers there to conduct a training. The few women who attended the training were always in burka. On the last day, we invited them to our guest house (the Khost governor's guest house that is). There were no dry eyes when we finally had to hug them good byes. We have been asked to return there asap. While in Khost, I got a chance to attend meetings with a man from the US State Dept. In one of the meetings I met with two released Afghan men who had been detained (and abused) by the US military in Guantanamo for more than four years before being released as wrongfully etained. No need to tell you they were angry. Kudos to the young State Dept. man for his efforts to meet with them and hear their grievances. Not many in his position who make this effort. The men want an official apology from the US but both him and I agreed this won't happen, at least not while Pres. Bush is in office. I also attended a meeting with a group of Taleban leaders who (supposedl y) have laid down arms and support the current Karzai government. They had been*

*promised land and good jobs, equivalent to their old jobs, but that isn't happening. This led to a rant of some sort of course. I came away thinking these men will switch sides soon again if they haven't already. Sigh. Pres. Democratic candidate, Obama Barack is really hot here. People are rooting from here and all over the Middle East hoping to see him as the next US president. Aside from the fact he is a man of color and the son of a Muslim, most people welcome a smart, well spoken and friendlier face. I even got invited to a fund raiser in Kabul for him.*

*The last days in Kabul I have been staying with the Wardak family: mother with three unmarried children ages 20 thru 26. The youngest one is on summer break from college (in Pakistan) and has been my chauffeur, my guardian, my body guard. He goes shopping with me, eats with me and even sleeps with me... well, he sleeps in the same room on orders from his mother who woke up the first nite I was sleeping there and thought I was dying. Apparently I am suffering from some kind of sleep apnea. So, Mustafa (who was the translator for our first training in Ghor), dutifully wakes me when I am stuck in one of those struggles for air. Talk about getting a lot of personal attention! Tonight I am going with Marianne to a birthday party of Rosemary Stasek of "A Little Help" who lives here in Kabul. She was our sponsor for the Ghor trip. She already asked if we will come back next summer to do trainings in several other districts of that province. This is the kind of place I hope to take Amy to since it's safe. Anyone else interested? I am happy with my experiences this summer but sad I didn't have time to visit with some of my dear friends there and had to cancel some appointments with new people I met. Hope they will forgive me.*

*I'm sure you all have had your own adventures and I realize most of you have been working your regular jobs. But I can't wait to hear from YOU sometime soon. Much love, esp. to Amy and Daniel whom must by now be ready to have me around. Can't WAIT to see them.*

*~~Elsie*



## ***Our votes make a difference!!!!***

The Democratic and Republican presidential nominating conventions have come and gone, and AAUW Public Policy and Government Relations Director Lisa Maatz represented AAUW in both Denver and Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Now is the time to engage family, friends, and women in your community to discuss the issues and the candidates' stances. AAUW has partnered with the Commission on Presidential Debates to encourage our members and supporters to participate in DebateWatch. DebateWatch brings citizens like you together to watch the televised presidential and vice-presidential debates and talk about what they've learned.

Critical issues-educational equity, retirement security, a fair and balanced judiciary, equal pay, workplace equity, reproductive rights, and healthcare reform-are at stake each time Americans go to the ballot box. You have been preparing for weeks and months to ensure that women's

voices and issues are heard on Nov. 4. Together with AAUW, your efforts highlight our effectiveness as advocates for women, and demonstrate our resolve to speak our minds during this critical national discussion we call elections.

### **Take Action!**

Visit the [website](#) for a schedule of the [and more information](#) on how to [.](#)

Learn more about how you can make a difference throughout this election year with AAUW's [.](#) AAUW encourages you to start preparing now to ensure women's voices and issues are heard on Election Day, Nov. 4, 2008. Encourage other women to vote by forwarding AAUW's [to other women](#) and encouraging them to [and get involved](#). Also, be sure that you are registered to vote and that your voter information is current. If you have moved since the last election, then you will need to [and get involved](#) as many as 30 days before the general election. Finally, read AAUW's [to find out how your elected officials voted](#) on issues important to women and girls.

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

|              |                                      |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| September 15 | Reservations due for General Meeting |
| September 20 | GENERAL MEETING                      |
| September 7  | 49ers CALL RONNI!!!!                 |
| September 8  | Afternoon Book                       |
| September 9  | Evening Book                         |
| September 17 | Bunco                                |
| September 21 | 49ers --Did you call Ronni yet?      |

|            |                                           |
|------------|-------------------------------------------|
| October 5  | 49ers-- Ronni's still waiting             |
| October 26 | EF Fellows Luncheon                       |
| December 5 | Barnes and Noble fundraiser for Tech Trek |



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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**