
THE CONCORD CORRESPONDENT

American Association of University Women Concord, California Branch

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

Monthly Newsletter for October, 2008

Volume 2008 Issue #10

Concord's Historical Walking Tour

When: Saturday October 18

Time: 10:30am

Where: Meet at Todos Santos Plaza by the Stage
2175 Willow Pass Rd.

Concord CA 94518

For Info: Lana Hanlon 925-363-4438

Have you ever wondered about the history of some of our old buildings in Concord? How did Todos Santos Plaza get it's name? Well, now is your chance to find out more!!

On Saturday, October 18, come enjoy the company of our AAUW members and stroll the downtown district while we learn the history city. You will learn about twenty-five of the original dwellings of past Concord residents and founding citizens of our community. We will meet in Todos Santos Square at 10:30am and begin our self guided tour.

After we have finished strolling the neighborhood, we will stop for lunch at at Memo's Spanish Resturant at 2118 Mt. Diablo. on Grant Street. It should be a lovely day. Hope to see you then.



Save This Date!

Monica Johnston and her committee are working very hard to make our anniversary a special event. So.....

Be sure to set aside November 9, 2008 for our
AAUW-Concord Branch 60th Anniversary Celebration !

Sunday, November 9, 2008 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m
at Gallery Concord on Galindo Street. Invitations, which will include more details, will be mailed soon and require an RSVP. If you don't receive your invitation, please contact our branch president, Carol, at cslatten@comcast.net. *If you want more information about the event, please contact Monica at MJaauw@aol.com*



Concord Branch AAUW

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

from your President...

Our first meeting at Frede Hammes' home was a great success (thank you Frede).

Joanne Brown introduced two young women who had attended Tech Trek. Nanise, an eighth grader, reported on the wonderful experience she had this summer along with the two other young women sent by the Concord Branch. Brianna Mullen, who was a Tech Trek'er 3 years ago, attended this year as a junior counselor.

The budget for 2008-2009 was approved. Elaine Groen was elected president-elect and Tonya Hawes was elected recording secretary for this current year. Terri Almeida, Linda Smith and Barbara Shubert were elected to the CEF Board.

Terri Almeida is gathering a list of members' favorite books in preparation for the December 5th Barnes and Noble Bookfair. Trish Walleen has consented to manage the day.

If you were unable to attend and weren't able to sign up for sections including Daytime and Evening Book Groups, Bunko, Great Decisions and Wine and Whine please call and get more information from anyone on the board.

We are excited about our 60th birthday party being celebrated on November 9th at Gallery Concord. You will be receiving an invitation with RSVP card. Monica Johnston has a great team working on this event. Please plan to attend.

Hope to see you all soon.....Carol

60th Anniversary Planning Committee: Looking for volunteers

Would you like to help plan Concord's 60th Anniversary Celebration, which is to take place Sunday, November 9 from 4-6p? If you have a lead for musicians, photographers, video professionals or just want to help setup the day of the event, please contact me. If you have pictures of AAUW-Concord members from 1948-2008, please let me know. Please contact Monica at MJaaaw@aol.com.

AAUW on the Web!

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/
For membership info: www.aauw.org/About/join/index.cfm
For member benefits: 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/>

In last month's newsletter, we listed an interesting website for a video about AAUW. The video highlights AAUW's 125-year legacy, what it offers women today and why we still have work left to do. The correct URL is: <http://www.aauw.org/About/aauwVideo.cfm>. (Thanks, Judy Silverforb!)

Public Policy....California

A special note...Most of you have heard the sad news that Margaret Hackenbracht recently passed away. Margaret was more than just my federal public policy counterpart, she was someone who was always inspiring me, through her own actions, and encouraging me to stay informed about the issues that affect the lives of women and girls. "Ohhhh, really," she would say in response to "Did you hear about.....?". Even if you happened to hear from the next table, unable to see her eyes grow wide, you knew that her "Ohhhh, really" conveyed a youthful, genuine curiosity and determination to understand the many sides of an issue. I'll miss our monthly telephone calls—our personal sneak previews about each other's upcoming contribution to the newsletter. I'll miss her references—just bits and pieces—about her family friends, one in particular, from Africa. She was always encouraging me to join the Commonwealth Club because "they have such wonderful speakers." I'll put that on my to-do list.

Updates

Registered to Vote? Then Vote.

While Concord and surrounding areas may have high voter registration rates, not all registered voters vote. I'm in the process of identifying key locations throughout Concord to set up a table and simply remind people to vote. Please join me! E-mail MJaauw@aol.com.

First Saturday Morning: Communication from AAUW-California Leaders

Each month AAUW-California co-presidents send an e-mail (First Saturday Morning) to Public Policy branch chairs that focuses on communication, collaboration, and connection. Here's an excerpt:

Communication:

There is a fifteen-minute speech for **Women's Equality Day** that was written for the National Women's History Project by Morgan Stewart. It is yours to use. The following is an excerpt from the speech. You can get the entire speech by contacting Judy or Gloria via email at statepresident@aauw-ca.org.

Excerpts from A Speech for Women's Equality Day

On August 26th, we celebrated the anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. With that Amendment, 51% of the United States population that had only a limited say in their government - the women - won the right to vote. The passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 capped the most extensive civil rights campaign our nation had ever experienced. The amazing story of that grassroots campaign is a proud part of our shared history that is fascinating, full of brilliance, daring, and heroism. Women gave the accumulated possibilities of entire lifetimes to win the vote. How many of us are already familiar with details of woman suffrage

movement in this country? Not many, I'm afraid. It is a story of women's perseverance and determination against strenuous opposition. It illustrates how a fundamental belief - that the rights of citizenship should belong to all Americans - resulted from a gradual change of minds and attitudes.

When the 19th Amendment was finally ratified, on August 26, 1920, Carrie Chapman Catt said, "Young suffragists who helped forge the last links of that chain were not born when it began," she said, and "old suffragists who helped forge the first links were dead when it ended."

As today's links in that chain, we can forge the bonds of the past with the possibilities of the future. We can do it because we must. And because we must, we will!

Collaboration: Highlighting the League of Women Voters this month.

They are an organization of women and men who want to make a difference in the political future of our country. The League is a diversified, nonpartisan, political group with a long-standing tradition of educating voters.

The League of Women Voters was formed in 1920 as an outgrowth of the movement to give women the right to vote following the passage of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The League was characterized as a "**mighty political experiment**" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy.

Carrie Chapman Catt is generally credited as being the founder of the League. When she first wrote of how she envisioned the League in April 1919, she wrote, "The politicians used to ask why we wanted to vote. They seemed to think we want to do something particular with it, something we were not telling about. They did not understand that women wanted to help improve the general welfare of the people."

Janis R. Hirohama is the California President of LWVC. The League of Women Voters, do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. They do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest. If you would like to have a representative from the League of Women Voters come you can contact them through their website at www.ca.lwv.org or by email lwvc@lwvc.org.

Connection: September 15: Mailing of the fall issue of *Perspective*.

ACTION Items

Oct 15: Contact MJaauw@aol.com if you want to help organize our branch's effort to encourage people to vote. It takes just two hours of your time—1 hour in October and then 1 hour the week before the November 4 elections.

~Monica Johnston

Fall FUNDrising

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. Its location is the first source of refreshment to a huge section of the stadium. Our records show that when we have a full crew of nine to ten people working, our income increases significantly.

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, 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

Feeling Artsy?

To showcase the artistic talents of AAUW members, AAUW announces the AAUW Note Card Design Contest. Our 2009 note cards will be made special by using members' original art on the front of the cards. To make them even more special, AAUW members will select the three designs that appear on the cards by voting once a week online for your favorites. Every time you vote, you are automatically entered into a drawing to win one of ten \$25 gift certificates to ShopAAUW.

Enter soon and encourage your friends to enter this exciting new AAUW contest. Then, make sure to visit the AAUW Design Gallery to see all the terrific artwork submissions and vote for your favorites. Check this out: <http://www.aauw.org/contests/>

Important Dates:

* September 15 through November 3 - Submit your designs through this website.

* November 10 through December 12 - Visit this website once a week to vote for your favorite designs. Each time you vote you will be entered into a drawing to win one of ten \$25 gift certificates for ShopAAUW.

* April 2009 - Watch your mailbox for a new set of beautiful and uniquely AAUW notecards.

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	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 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.
Hotels.com	
Hotwire	
JCPenney	
JCWhitney	

Great Decisions

It's coming.....Great Decisions 2009! Topic titles for the coming year are:

U.S. and the rising powers
Afghanistan/Pakistan
Energy and the global economy
The Arctic
Egypt
Global food supply
Cuba after Castro
Human rights

In Memoriam

Many of you will remember Janice Gleason, President of Concord AAUW in 1969 and very active with our branch for a number of years. She was honored in 1968 as Outstanding Young Woman of America. (This was before the honorary designation was changed to Distinguished Woman of the Year). Janice passed away on September 15. You might want to send a card to her family and keep them in your thoughts.

For those of you who wish to attend the service for Margaret Hachinbracht, it is scheduled for October 11 at 1:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 4000 Concord Blvd., Concord. Maybe you can carpool with an AAUW friend?

You'll love our new members!

You may remember Claudia Acevedo from our May luncheon....she is the scholarship coordinator at Los Medanos College. Please welcome her when you attend the next meeting!

Acevedo, Claudia 439-2181 ext. 3130
703 Preservation St., Pittsburg 94565
E-mail: cacevedo@losmedanos.edu
CSU San Francisco - B.A. Liberal Studies

While you are at it, introduce yourselves to Roberta Nalbandian, as well! She is the newest of the new:

Roberta Nalbandian
1455 Balhan #105, Concord, CA 94521
323-2646
nalban@verizon.net

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

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

Membership Drive

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>



Section Meetings

Evening Book: Evening Book will meet at Helen Nelsons home on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 7:30. We will review *The Legends of Fire Horse Woman* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston. Join us for a great evening of discussion!

Helen Nelson, 682-0511

Afternoon Book: We will meet on Monday, October 13 at 1:00 at the home of Gini Colling. The book to read is *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett. In November we will read *Street of a Thousand Blossoms* by Gail Tsukiyama. Come join us!

Lucille Rudik, 686-9165

Bunco: Bunco will meet on Wednesday, October 22 at 7 pm at Karen Maurer's. If you would like to join us, please let Andrea (672-7847) know by Oct. 18. Anyone can learn to play and each person donates \$5.

Andrea Proctor

Northern EF Fellow Luncheon

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.

Board Meeting Highlights.....8/27/08

Treasurer Jean Simuitis distributed copies of the draft budget for 2008-2009. Many questions arose and were answered satisfactorily. Extra money was set aside for the State Convention in San Diego and the National Convention in St. Louis. The budget was approved with the specification that money be set aside for the 60th Anniversary party.

Jean reported that the May Fundraiser at Barnes and Noble yielded \$244.

Beverly and Elaine gave some information from the Communications Workshop at the Training Day. Beverly reported on possibilities for the website. The Board strongly suggested that we ask members to go online if they can and are willing. Beverly and Phyllis have agreed to place the website address on every page of the newsletter and the website. The board was encouraged to elicit bios from new members and to highlight them in the newsletter as a means of welcoming and keeping new members. Carol has agreed to send emails to each member to ask if they would go online for the newsletter. Phyllis will be asked to include advertisements in the newsletter since people pay to advertise.

60th Anniversary

Monica Johnson reported that each of her committee who contacted a public speaker reported back that they needed a specific date. Bette Boatman contacted Sunne McPeake, Elaine contacted Rep. George Miller, Frede contacted Rep. Ellen Tauscher and Celeste spoke with California Rep. Laura Canciamiller (who was unable to speak after November 8 and suggested Dr. Laura Wilson). The board selected Sunday, November 9, as the date of the party. It will be a 5:30-7:30 event with Cocktail type food, but no cocktails. Jean moved that \$1000 be taken from our

maturing CD Savings Account to be used for this party so that the price to members would be doable for all members at \$10.00 each. Lana seconded and the Board approved.

Program

- December Lana gave two options for the Holiday Party with a possibility of a third. On December 13 from 2-5 in the afternoon.
- January The East Bay Hospice Program is being planned for that month.
- Our new PR Chair, Terri Almeida, suggested that we create a book list of member favorite books. We could hand this out at the September meeting along with the suggestion that members purchase their books when we do the Barnes and Noble Fundraiser in December. The board liked the idea and she will proceed.

EF

- Andrea reported on the October 26th Fellows Luncheon. Because it is located so close this year (Crow Canyon) and because it is always exciting to hear about the work of the PhD's that AAUW supports, Carol encouraged everyone to attend. Reservations must be in by October 13.
- National AAUW is also requesting 500 individuals or branches donate \$50.00 within 50 days. Jean proposed that Concord Branch donate \$50.00. Andrea seconded. It passed.

New Business

- Carol was pleased to report that one of our new members, Trish Walleen, has agreed to be in charge of the Barnes and Noble fundraiser in December.
- Carol asked for volunteers to become a buddy for each new member. Many on the Board volunteered.
- Frede reported that Concord AAUW does not have the visibility it once held in Concord politics. She encouraged people to get involved with the plans for the Concord Weapon Station grounds. She says "it is larger than the Presidio in San Francisco. East Bay Parks has bid for 60% of the land for a major park and has the funds to do it. The Concord City Council has not been responding to them. The next meeting is Saturday, September 13. She encourages members to attend.
- The budget, along with the Anniversary money was approved.

Elaine Groen, Secretary

Our votes make a difference!!!!

Election Day is just over a month away, but deadlines to register to vote are approaching as quickly as this week. You have been preparing for months to ensure that women's voices and issues are heard on November 4; now is the time to make sure your vote is counted.

Be Sure That You Are Registered to Vote.

Be sure that you are registered to vote and that your voter information is current. Registration deadlines vary by state, but several states require registrations to be filed 30 days before the election, so don't put it off. See a list of voter registration deadlines for all states here.

Encourage Other Women to Register and Vote.

Forward this e-mail to other women you know and encourage them to register to vote too.

Request an Absentee Ballot or Vote Early.

If you won't be able to make it to your polling place on Election Day, request an absentee ballot. The League of Women Voters Education Fund's Vote411.org website has an online absentee ballot request tool. Some states also allow for early voting in advance of Election Day. Contact your state election office to see if this is an option in your state.

Get Informed.

Find out how where the candidates stand on issues important to women and girls. AAUW's voter guides will help voters make informed decisions on where candidates in the presidential race and in hot congressional races stand on AAUW issues, and the Congressional Voting Record for the 110th Congress gives our members and the public critical information about how members of Congress voted on AAUW priority issues.

Set Aside These Dates...

October 12 49ers--Philadelphia Eagles
October 13 Afternoon Book
October 14 Evening Book
October 18 GENERAL MEETING
October 22 Bunco

October 26 EF Fellows Luncheon
49ers again....call Ronni
November 9 60th Anniversary Celebration
November 16 Go 9ers! Ronni is by the phone!
December 5 Barnes and Noble fundraiser for Tech Trek
December 7 49ers.....Time is running out...call Ronni!
December 13 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.



Concord AAUW
PO Box 434
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AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED