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# THE CONCORD CORRESPONDENT

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American Association of University Women Concord, California Branch  
Monthly Newsletter for September, 2009

Volume 2009 Issue #9

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## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

**What:** September General Meeting  
**When:** Saturday, September 19, 2009  
**Time:** 11:00 Social  
11:30 Box Lunch from Sunrise Bistro  
12:30 Program  
**Where:** Brookview Clubhouse  
1201 Monument Blvd. (Entrance on north side of  
Monument Blvd., just west of Mohr Lane.)  
**Cost:** \$16.00  
Lunch choices:  
Chicken Cashew Salad Sandwich  
Roasted Veggie Sandwich  
Thai Chicken Salad  
Greek Salad

**Please send Check for \$16.00 and lunch choice to:**  
Trish Walleen, 2635 Tokola Dr. Concord, CA 94518  
**She needs your check by Monday, September 14, 2009**



The Tech Trek girls have been invited to share their exciting camp experiences. Their presentation will be followed by a business meeting to discuss plans for the coming year.

Section chairs are asked to discuss their groups. They are: Afternoon Book (Marianne Lowe), Evening Book (Helen Nelson), Bunco (Andrea Proctor), Crafty Ladies (Phyllis Nishimori), Great Decisions (Joanne Brown), Scrabble (Jean Simutis), and Wine & Whine (Lana Hanlon).

This is the first meeting of our exciting new year, so let's make an extra effort to welcome and get acquainted with our new members.

**Reminder: Save December 19 for our Holiday luncheon!**

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## Backpack Project

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WOW! Another year and another two carloads of LOADED BACK PACKS are on their way to elementary students in our own Mt. Diablo School District!

This year we were able to put together 50+ packs for Shore Acres Elementary School. Principal Kari Rees was delighted to get the news and receive our delivery. The backpacks (which are stuffed with binder and paper, notebook, ruler, and pencil box with glue, pencils, crayons, scissors, sharpener, eraser) will be distributed to students who have been identified by the school staff as students in need. We know that there will be 50+ smiley faces as these kids receive your gift!

If you still wish to contribute, that would be great. Phyllis and Betty did a lot of early shopping to take advantage of the sales. So, your \$\$ is still welcome.

A **HUGE THANKS** to those who already helped us out this year:

Donations of \$\$ and "stuff": Joyce Jacobs, Judie Cunan, Trish Walleen, Beverly Murray, Marian Coons, Barbara Schubert, Karen Maurer, Terri Almeida, Esther Smith, Joanne Brown, Lanai Cline, Judy Silverforb, Ruth Lyle, Virginia Colling, Lynnet Keihl, Nadine Seedall, Helen Nelson, Linda Smith, Iola O'Grady, Trudy Barron, Norma Griffin, Patty Wintroath, Bea Cortes, Celeste Graham, Carol Slatten, Jean Warren, Betty Hirsch and Phyllis Nishimori.

Time spent packing those 50+ bags: Helen Nelson, Nadine Seedall, and Michael, Mark and Andrew Hirsch, Jimmy Simonelli (friend of the Hirsch boys) and Nicole Vaticano (neighbor of Betty).

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**

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

Permit #166  
PO Box 434  
Concord, CA 94522

### **Officers**

#### **President**

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#### **Program VP**

Susie Castillo 825-1294  
Trish Walleen 798-5591

#### **Membership VP**

Lana Hanlon 363-4438

#### **Educational Foundation Co-Vice Presidents**

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Joanne Brown 676-9048

#### **Rec Secretary**

Claudia Acevedo 439-2181

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Karen Maurer 686-5768

#### **Treasurer**

Jeannie Johnson 708-6049

#### **Membership Treasurer**

Michelle Koski 676-0739

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

## **from your President...**

Welcome back to the new year of 2009-2010. Your board has been meeting throughout the summer to plan for the year. We have a wonderful mix of women of all ages to steer our group.

The Spring AAUW-CA Convention took as a theme, Mission in Motion: Riding the Waves of Change. Both national and state AAUW have shared their concern that AAUW has not been successful in attracting and keeping active and younger members. Some branches are folding.

We here in the Concord Branch have initiated a survey of our younger members to learn what would attract and keep these people. As a group, we have also discussed what would attract and keep our more experienced members.

Monica Johnson has agreed to chair a Speakers' series that would be marketed to all ages of women. Goals of the series would be to 1) provide a helpful service to women, 2) attract new members, 3) attract publicity for AAUW, 4) provide income for our branch and 5) involve many of our members. She plans a committee of 8 people and hopes that many of you will be attracted to work on these committees. She used this approach with the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we know how successful that was. You go, girl!

In addition, plans are being made to man tables at 3 colleges to provide information about AAUW to female college students along with information on our scholarships. We want young women to know who we are and how membership would help them in school, when they graduate, during their careers and when they retire.

Some women on the board have never held a position with our branch. It is exciting to me to see these people become involved and move toward making a difference. At the same time, I feel honored to have many experienced people working on the board. I am a "newbie" in many ways, too. It feels really good to be able to call upon these people for advice and for them to help the newer members. Please take a moment to look at the list of people who have accepted positions. And consider if you would like to serve on a committee. We are looking for people to form a Hospitality Committee to welcome and mentor guests and new members.

Please join us at the September meeting to hear about plans for the year, sign up for a section and to hear the Tech Trek girls share their summer experiences. They were a real "hit" last year.

~~Elaine Groen



## Concord Branch, AAUW, Board 2009-2010

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b><i>Elected Executive Positions:</i></b>			
President:	Elaine Groen	689-5215	esgroenrd@yahoo.com
President Elect:	(open)		
VP/Program	Susie Castillo, Trish Walleen	825-1294 798-5591	castsn1@att.net none
VP/Membership:	Lana Hanlon	363-4438 (w)823-4481	lanbanan@global.net
VP/EF:	Joanne Brown Andrea Proctor,	676-9048 672-7847	jbrownaauw@astound.net ae_proc@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary:	Claudia Acevedo	439-2181 Ext. 3130	cacevedo@losmedanos.edu
Treasurer:	Jeannie Johnson	708-6049	jeanniejohnson36@comcast.net
Parliamentarian:	Carol Slatten		
<b><i>Appointed Positions:</i></b>			
Corresponding Sect:	Karen Maurer	686-5768	kmaureraauw@astound.net
Hospitality:	(open)		
LAF:	Bette Boatmun	689-9255	bboatmun@yahoo.com
Membership Treasurer:	Michelle Koski	676-0739	mkphantom26@hotmail.com
Public Information:	Terri Almeida	980-5499	terri@yourworldlygoods.com
Public Policy Chairs:	Monica Johnston Christine Hwang	682-6628 548-3807	MJaauw@aol.com chrishhwang@yahoo.com
Tech Trek:	Linda Smith Frede Hammes	689-3987 686-6176	lassmith@aol.com frhammes@yahoo.com
<b><i>Standing Committees:</i></b>			
49er Chair:	Ronda (Ronni) Collmer	827-1815	ronni@thecollmerteam.com
Membership Directory:	Carol Slatten	676-7525	cslatten@comcast.net
Name Tags:	Judie Cunan	672-0446	JACunan@aol.com
Newsletter Editor:	Phyllis Nishimori	687-6955	pnish@pacbell.net
Newsletter Circulation:	Joanne Brown, Celeste Graham	676-7525	cqgraham@yahoo.com
Telephone Tree:	Frede Hammes	686-6176	frhammes@yahoo.com
Webmaster:	Carol Slatten	676-7525	cslatten@comcast.net
<b><i>Interest Groups:</i></b>			
Afternoon Book	Marianne Lowe	825-2837	Delowe4618@aol.com
Evening Book	Helen Nelson	682-0511	
Bunco	Andrea Proctor	672-7847	ae_proc@yahoo.com
Crafty Ladies	Phyllis Nishimori	687-6955	pnish@pacbell.net
Great Decisions	Joanne Brown	676-9048	jbrownaauw@astound.net
Scrabble	Jean Simuitis	682-3195	
Wine and Whine	Lana Hanlon	363-4438 (w)823-4481	lanbanan@global.net

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### 2009/10 Board Meetings

Here is the year's schedule for Board Meetings The second person listed brings refreshments. Many thanks to each of you who are donating your home and/or bringing refreshments!

Aug 31	Michelle Koski	Claudia Acevedo	Jan 4	Michelle Koski	Lana Hanlon
Oct 5	Andrea Proctor	Carol Slatten	Feb 1	Carol Slatten	Susie Castillo
Nov 2	Lana Hanlon	Christine Hwang	March 1	Lana Hanlon	Andrea Proctor
Dec 7	Bette Boatmun	Trish Walleen	April 5	Trish Walleen	Claudia Acevedo

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## ***Fall FUNDrising***

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Our 49er Volunteers are already hard at work, earning money for our Tech Trek girls and Scholarships. Our two Preseason Games are August 14 and August 22. The regular Season Games are:

Sunday, Sept 20 – Seattle – The SEASON OPENING  
Sunday, October 4 – St Louis  
Sunday, October 11 – Atlanta  
Sunday, November 8 – Tennessee  
THURSDAY, November 12 – Chicago  
Sunday, November 29 – Jacksonville  
MONDAY, December 14 – Arizona  
Sunday, December 27 – Detroit

There are only two names that show up for ALL the games, and those names are Jean Simutis and Ronni Collmer. Other wonderful and reliable volunteers are Claudia Acevedo, Joanne Brown, Celeste Graham, Linda Haggerty, Lana Hanlon, Tonya Hawes, Michelle Koski, Carol Slatten. Michelle's mom Kathie Koski is volunteering for the first time this year. My friend, Gloria Bullock volunteers – and she is not even a member! The same is true of Linda Haggerty's friend, Gary.

This may seem like a lot of volunteers. But when you consider that there are ten games per season, you can see that we really need more help. Often half the money we earn (or more) goes away to other groups that help us fill our quota. We really need your help to either volunteer or find someone who can help us for the Concord Branch. We especially need help for the games that are on the week days.

So, this is your action item: Get more help for the 49er volunteers!

~~Ronni & Jean

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## ***Members' Corner***

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Please give Frede Hammes a call. She's had knee replacement surgery and would probably love a card or phone call to help pass the hours.

Also, Lucille Rudik might enjoy a few cards in the mail. Keep these ladies in your thoughts.

Many of you knew Eloise Honett, long time member and truly amazing lady. In case you didn't hear, she passed away this summer. Eloise always had a story to tell, a smile on her face, and just loved to talk....about our city, our branch, the "old" days, her opinions, her teaching career.....She was a memorable woman who offered much to our community. If you were lucky enough to know her, you will remember her with a smile on your face.

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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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## ***2009/10 Concord Connections is being updated!***

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Please email Carol Slatten (cslatten@comcast.net) or mail her any information you would like deleted or added to your profile in the Concord Connection (address book). The new edition will go to press on October 1st. If you have email please be sure to send that address to her for inclusion.

~~Carol Slatten

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## *Meet Me In St. Louis!*

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*St. Louis MO...the city of the famous Arch...the Mississippi River...Anheiser Bush Stadium...the "Gateway to the West."*

The national AAUW Convention with the theme, "Breaking through Barriers," was held in the distinguished Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel, formerly known as the Statler Hotel. It was the setting for the historic convention of the National American Suffrage Association in 1919. At that breakthrough convention, the League of Women Voters was created to secure the enfranchisement of women in all states. The Grand Lobby Bar was the first bar in Missouri where a woman could drink and smoke in public. It still exists and is steeped in suffrage history.

On that note, AAUW members made history of our own by voting on a revision of the national bylaws but not before a few changes were made! The 2007 section on extending membership to individuals based upon their educational degrees was *re-inserted* into the new bylaws. The number of directors-at-large was increased from 7 to 10 members while the number of appointed officers and directors was dropped from 6 to 3 members. Another change approved is convention voting. We are now an organization of "one member, one vote." These new bylaws became effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Another significant change is our name – the American Association of University Women will now be officially known as "AAUW" and will become a 501(c)3 organization. Separate bylaws were approved for the AAUW Action Fund so that our public policy activities can continue to support and advocate for women's equity and education.

### *Some Convention highlights...*

-The appearance and convention participation of Lilly Ledbetter, the focus of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which was the first piece of legislation signed into law by President Obama after his inauguration.

-Lilly was the litigant in the landmark case against Goodyear for pay discrimination. Her company had a policy that would not allow employees to disclose their salary information to anyone or discuss it in any way so for most of her career, she didn't know she was being discriminated against. After 19 years with the company, she received anonymous information making her aware that she had been underpaid for almost her entire career. She filed suit for back wages under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, won her case and was awarded back pay as well as \$3.8 million in punitive damages.

The defendants appealed the case all the way to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ruled that she had not filed her suit on discrimination in a timely manner - 180 days from the first time she was discriminated against. The lower court decision was overturned, leaving Lilly without

one penny of back compensation. Because she was paid lower wages over the years, her retirement, 401K, and even her social security are based on her lower salary – an example of why "equity is still an issue."

Although the Supreme Court let her down, women everywhere have taken up her cause and are now working to get the Paycheck Fairness Act passed which will update the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Under the able hand of Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), the bill has passed the House of Representatives. It still must pass in the Senate. Senator Feinstein has not yet signed on as a co-sponsor so it's up to all of us to call and email her to act.

-The Convention Banquet honored the generosity of the branches, states, and individuals for their giving. CA kept up its good record of contributions to EF, LAF, and the Leadership & Training Institute. We are the top contributor to LAF, EF, the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest contributor to the Leadership & Training Institute. CA Representative Jackie Speier (an AAUW member) gave the Banquet keynote address with her "Ten Commandments" for overcoming obstacles and barriers. A new public phase of the EF Major Gifts Campaign was announced with a goal of \$1 million by the end of 2010. Already 45% or \$450,000 has been received.

-From the presentation by two female CEO's, we learned that there are only 13 female CEO's in the top 500 corporations and only a total of 25 female CEO's in the top 1000 corporations. Lots of work to still to be done.

-During the business session, Concord Branch was mentioned in the EF Report where AAUW Fellow Valarie Jones commented on her presentation to our branch last February.

New officers elected were Carolyn Garfein, a former AAUW CA member. Kathleen Cha (Oakland-Piedmont, S.F.) and Alicia Hetman (Sacramento) were elected as Directors-at-Large. Krys Wulff (Oakland-Piedmont, Napa) has been appointed as a Director-at-Large. Since there are no longer Regional Directors, it was gratifying to see that AAUW CA will have representation on the new Association Board.

I thank you for the pleasure and privilege of representing the Concord Branch at the Convention. It is invigorating to be a part of our organization at work and participate in the decision making process. The next national convention will be in Washington D.C., June 16-19, 2011 at the Renaissance Hotel.

*FOOTNOTE: I had a delightful dinner with Bob and Judy Silverforb. Judy now lives in Sherwood, OR and remains a loyal dual member with Concord Branch. We spent much time showing off pictures of our grandchildren and catching up on branch news!*

~~Joanne Brown

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## ***Tech Trek***

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Thank you, Carol Slatten, for your very generous gift to the Tech Trek program. Carol's donation was made to the Tech Trek program in the names of those who have served on her Board of Directors this past year. This surely is a wonderful way to honor her board members while supporting a very worthy AAUW project. We salute you for your outstanding service to AAUW Concord and your continued support and thoughtfulness on behalf of women and girls.

2008-09 Concord Board of Directors and Tech Trek Coordinators

~~Joanne Brown

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## ***AAUW-CA EF Fellow Luncheon***

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The AAUW-CA celebration luncheon for the northern California EF Fellows and Grant Recipients will be Sunday, Oct. 25, 12:00-3:00 pm at Crow Canyon Country Club. The luncheon is \$30 and the fellows and recipients will give short presentations of their projects which are being funded by EF monies.

If you would like to attend, please give Andrea Proctor a call. She will also have limited applications available at the Sept. branch meeting. Reservations are due by Oct. 12. This has always been an inspiring gathering.

~~Andrea Proctor and Joanne Brown, co-EF/CEF VPs

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## ***Think 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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## ***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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## ***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 Michelle Koski at 676-0739.

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## ***Section Meetings***

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**Evening Book:** We're back! Our first meeting will be at Helen Nelson's home, 7:30 pm on September 8. We will be reading *The Last Queen* by C.W. Gortner. Be sure to come with recommendations for our 2009-10 reading year!

Helen Nelson, 682-0511

**Afternoon Book:** We will be meeting on September 14 at 1:00 at the home of Marianne Lowe. Our book for this month is *Rooftops of Tehran* by Mahbol Seraji. Come join us!

Marianne Lowe, 825-2837

**Bunco:** Bunco will meet 7 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at Andrea Proctor's house. Anyone can play and each player donates \$5. If you'd like to join us, please call Andrea Proctor (672-7847) by Sept. 11.

**Crafty Ladies:** Back by popular demand on Thursday, September 24, we will be doing decoupage (again) on a flower pot (again). Can't have too many pots! Call Betty Hirsch at 689-7234 if you'd like to join us. A nominal fee will be charged to cover the expense of materials. Come join the fun and give your brain a rest. This is like Brownies, and a good chance to visit and just unwind.

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## ***Public Policy--Federal***

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Welcome back, ladies! Thank you for your positive feedback over the years. This year, I'll be reporting on federal public policy issues and Christine Hwang will be reporting on California public policy issues.

I will report on the following items which are part of AAUW's Federal Policy Agenda:

**I. Expand Educational Opportunities for Women and Girls**

- A. Reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act
- B. Encourage Workforce Investment and Career and Technical Education
- C. Oppose Voucher Programs
- D. Strengthen and Enforce Title IX
- E. Increase Access to Higher Education

**II. Promote Women's Economic Security**

- A. Promote Pay Equity
- B. Improve and Advance Equal Opportunity
- C. Support Work and Life Balance
- D. Improve Retirement Security
- E. Promote Solutions for Healthcare Security

**III. Promote and Defend Civil Rights**

- A. Create a Fair and Balanced Judiciary
- B. Improve Hate Crimes Prevention
- C. Reaffirm and Strengthen Civil Rights Laws and Precedents
- D. Protect Reproductive Rights

**Updates:**

**Summer 2009**

In late May, Christine Hwang and I, as incoming branch public policy co-chairs, attended State Senator Mark DeSaulnier's Open House on Thursday, May 28. We were able to meet his staffers and picked up helpful brochures, like the one for tracking medical prescriptions. Pick up one at the first branch meeting in September.

We also meet with the branch's Board of Directors to talk about public policy programming for 2009-10. We plan to serve the membership by (1) writing a news article each month, (2) visiting the offices of our local politicians, (3) developing a speakers series, and (4) exploring the possibility of developing a public policy program that prepares women to take board positions in local organizations.

**AAUW Applauds Senate Confirmation of Judge Sotomayor**

WASHINGTON – In a historic bipartisan vote, the Senate today confirmed Judge Sonia Sotomayor as an associate justice to the U.S. Supreme Court (68-31). Judge Sotomayor will become the first woman justice confirmed to the high court since Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in 1993. She will also be the first Latina justice.

“Sixteen years ago, President Clinton predicted that Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg would move the court ‘not left or right but forward.’<sup>1</sup> We believe those words apply equally well to Judge Sotomayor,” said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. “We hope all Americans will join us in celebrating this historic achievement for all women. Judge Sotomayor will bring welcome depth, experience, and first-rate legal knowledge to the court.”

“Today is a proud day for those of us who fight for gender equity and judges who are committed to upholding the rights of all Americans,” said Lisa Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations. “The Senate has confirmed an extremely well qualified nominee who has amassed three decades’ worth of legal experience. The Supreme Court, and our nation, will be well served as a result.”

(Excerpt from [http://www.aauw.org/About/newsroom/pressreleases/scotusConfirmation\\_080609.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/About/newsroom/pressreleases/scotusConfirmation_080609.cfm))

**AAUW Sets the Record Straight**

AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE, issued the following statement:

AAUW has been victimized by an act of blatant fraud. We have been informed, and confirmed with our Virginia affiliate, that an agent of Bonner & Associates – through its work with the Hawthorn Group and the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity – forged one or more letters from AAUW to members of Congress. Other well-known organizations were similarly targeted. The goal was to further the coal industry's lobbying efforts against the Clean Energy and Security Act, also known as the “cap and trade” legislation.

Energy policy is not a topic on which AAUW advocates. We are best known for playing a leading role in some of the nation's greatest public policy success stories in the areas of pay equity, family-friendly workplaces and education.

This incident constitutes outright deceit and demonstrates a breathtaking lack of ethics. AAUW greatly resents having been portrayed in false light, and sympathizes with the other organizations that have been victims of this outrageous act. We also fully support Rep. Edward J. Markey's investigation into this matter. When members of Congress receive a letter from AAUW and its members, they should feel confident that they are being contacted by real people committed to the principles of our great democracy and the mission of AAUW. Cynical and premeditated lies have no place in public policy debates ([http://www.aauw.org/About/newsroom/pressreleases/fraud\\_080609.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/About/newsroom/pressreleases/fraud_080609.cfm)).

**Action Items**

Call to members: Make the most of your branch membership by getting involved! If you are interested in public policy issues and are interested in implementing public policy programs for 2009-10, please contact Monica at [MJaauw@aol.com](mailto:MJaauw@aol.com). Another easy way to get involved is to sign up for the AAUW Action Network and keep up with issues that matter to you ([http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue\\_advocacy/](http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/)).

~ Monica Johnston~

### ***Protect AAUW's Name and Grassroots Strength***

As you may have *seen in the news* or *read on our website*, a blatant act of fraud has been committed against AAUW. Corporate interests with deep pockets forged one or more letters from AAUW to members of Congress urging them to oppose a bill on which AAUW had no position. This forgery is an outright deception and represents a complete lack of ethics - which is why AAUW fully supports Rep. Edward J. Markey's (D-MA) investigation into this matter. *Join us in urging your representative to support this investigation to prevent future acts of deceit.*

It seems that Bonner & Associates, a grassroots lobbying firm hired by the Hawthorn Group and the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity to further the coal industry's lobbying against the Clean Energy and Security Act, has used AAUW's good name-and those of other well-known organizations-in fraudulent letters to members of Congress. An agent of Bonner & Associates manufactured a nonexistent Charlottesville AAUW Branch, used the AAUW logo, and sent at least one letter to a Virginia congressman asking him to vote against this

legislation, also known as the cap and trade bill. Ironically, this is not even a policy area in which AAUW advocates. Upon gathering the facts, AAUW responded to set the record straight.

According to press accounts, the businesses involved knew of the fraudulent letters at least two days before the House voted on the cap and trade bill but neglected to inform the House offices about the fraudulent letters until weeks later - well after what proved to be a very close vote.

Rep. Markey, chairman of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, was the co-author of the cap and trade legislation in the House. He has stated that the select committee will immediately begin an investigation of the extent and scope of the matter, and AAUW supports his efforts.

AAUW has worked a long time to build our good reputation and keep our name untarnished. AAUW members have used their collective voices to break through barriers for women and girls. When members of Congress receive a letter from an AAUW member, it is critical that they feel confident that they are being contacted by a real person who is committed to the mission of AAUW - not a phony who is trying to undermine the principles of our representative democracy.

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

Sept. 8 Evening Book  
Sept. 14 Afternoon Book  
Sept. 14 Reservation deadline for General Meeting  
Sept. 16 Bunco  
Sept. 19 GENERAL MEETING

Sept. 20 49er SEASON OPENER!!!! Call Ronni  
Sept. 24 Crafty Ladies  
Oct. 1 Dues are really due!  
Oct. 4 49ers.....Ronni can't wait to get your call!  
Oct. 11 49ers.....Ronni is still waiting to hear from you  
Oct. 25 EF Fellows Luncheon

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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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