



Pleasant Hill Branch
N.E.W.S
Now/Events/Women/Success

Volume 51 Issue 7

March 2009

RACHEL CARSON: A SENSE OF WONDER

This March, the National Women's History Project will honor women leaders of the environmental movement. They are celebrating, in particular, the pioneering work of Rachel Carson.

In conjunction with the NWHP's effort to raise awareness about Carson's enduring legacy of environmental stewardship,
Pleasant Hill AAUW invites you to attend

AN EVENING WITH RACHEL CARSON:
"A SENSE OF WONDER"
Tuesday, March 17th



Hillcrest Congregational Church
404 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill
7 – 8:30 pm

No charge for admission

Refreshments will follow the film.

A SENSE OF WONDER is an intimate and poignant reflection on Carson's life and her emergence as America's most successful advocate for the natural world.

(A trailer of the film starring Kaiulani Lee as Rachel Carson is available at

<http://www.kaiulanilee.com/sense-of-wonder-film.html>)

Friends, spouses, significant others, are all welcome

Questions, call Eileen Bordenave 944 - 5528 or Bea Ball, 825 - 3622

Check out the Pleasant Hill AAUW Web Site
<http://www.aauw-ph.org>

KIT'S KORNER

March is Women's History Month. People all over the nation, and, in fact, the world (March 8 is International Women's Day) celebrate those who have gone before us to raise awareness about the successes and challenges of women in the U.S. and abroad. In fact, one of the projects that our dues help pay for is a tool kit for helping to celebrate International Women's Day (see



http://www.aauw.org/member_center/programs/IntlWomensDay2009.cfm) But we don't need to go very far to educate ourselves and our community about the accomplishments of women. On March 17 our branch will sponsor a wonderful movie on Rachel Carson and, hopefully, we will attract many local high school and middle school students to the event. A Sense of Wonder is a portrayal by actress Kaiulani Lee of the "patron saint of the environmental movement." Ms. Lee has performed this role on stage and now on film for more than 10 years. It will prove to be an inspiration to us all, I'm sure.

We can also join members of the local community and the nation right in our own Crescent Drive 16 theatre on March 5. A Powerful Noise (<http://www.apowerfulnoise.org/>) is a film that proposes the solution to global poverty and injustice lies in the ability of women and girls to have a voice in their societies. The film will have simultaneous broadcasts all over the country and a live town hall discussion after the film.

And if going to the movies is not enough, we can volunteer a few hours to inspire the next generation of women in fields of science, technology and math. Expanding Your Horizons

(<http://www.expandingyourhorizons.org/>) returns to Diablo Valley College on March 7 to encourage middle school girls to think about STEM careers. It is really a Tech Trek in a day, open to girls all over the area. Any of you who would like to volunteer an hour or two to help the conference activities (we act as hostesses and guides, not scientists☺) is invited to call me at 228-7503 and I will be happy to find work for you.

So what more can we do to celebrate women's history? See you at the movie! *Kit*

Nominating Committee

The following candidates have been nominated for elected officers for 2009-2010.

Presidential Team:

Bea Ball, Jean Hambleton, Ginny Hargrave and Marlene Maksel

Membership

Margi Alkire and Suzanne Salter

Program: Open at the present time

Educational Foundation:

Alana Macdonald, Lynn Murphy and Suzanne Rheingruber

Secretary:

Gayle Garrison

Treasurer:

Marilyn Tubbs

Ginny Hargrave, Parliamentarian

2008 – 2009 Board

President's Team

President:

Kit Hein 228-7503

Vice President's Program:

Bea Ball 825-3622

Eileen Bordenave 944-5528

Vice President's – EF:

Marlene DeLaurenti 934-4171

Sandy Wolfe 228-2633

Vice President's Membership:

Margi Alkire 827-2940

Diane Gartner 798-0798

Vice President – LAF:

Victoria Maat 933-4432

Secretary:

Ish Mendonsa 680-2749

Treasurer:

Suzanne Salter 935-0861

Newsletter Editor:

Kit Hein 228-7503

Marilyn Tubbs 939-6220

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Copy deadline for April

N.E.W.S. is due on

March 15th.

Please send copy to

Marilyn Tubbs,

18 Monivea Pl, PH or

email marclin@comcast.net

Wait until you hear what's coming.....

AAUW (Association, California State, and Pleasant Hill Branch) are coming into the 21st Century! This year (yes, this spring and summer) you will be able to rejoin AAUW using the internet! No more checks to the membership chair, no more waiting for that check to come back from the bank, and no more 44 cent stamps!



This year you may go on on-line, put in your name, use your credit card, and all will be done! Association will remit the money to the State of California and to the Branch, and will email you a receipt.

of course—if you want to do it the old way, that's great too! Joining AAUW for 2009-2010 will be easy for you either way!

So wait for more dues information next month. Dues will be the same: \$83. The website has not been opened yet. Our membership year is June 30 2009, to June 30, 2010. *Margie & Diane*

Interest Group Meetings:

MORNING BOOKS will meet on Wednesday, March 4th, 10 am, at Ginny Hargrave's. We will be discussing Alice: Alice Roosevelt Longworth from White House Princess to Power Broker by Stacy A. Cordery. Don't worry! The book isn't as long as its title. It chronicles the eight decades of Alice who became one of the most influential women in American society and politics. In April, we will be reading The Female Brain by Luann Brizendine. Don't miss these exciting reads!

IN INDELIBLE INK will meet on Wednesday, March 11th, 10 am, at Marilyn Tubbs'. The assignment will be to write a story (fictional or real) about a pioneer family. We are very supportive group and don't criticize what you've written. Genealogy, join us – this fits in perfectly with your research on your family.

EVENING BOOKS meeting will be on Monday, March 23rd, 7 pm at Gretel Holit's, 1156 Bacon Way in Lafayette. We will be discussing Harry Bernstein's The Invisible Wall. This a very poignant story written by a Jewish man when he was 93 years old (!) about his early childhood in England living on a street with Jews on one side and Christians on the other. Please join us for a great discussion.

Fair Oaks requests volunteers to read to students beginning March 2nd and continuing all month. Contact Wendy Axhelm (685-4494).

FRUGAL FOODIES will meet at 6:00 pm on Sunday, March 1st @ Devino's and again, on Sunday, March 29th (place to be determined)... Call Suzanne Mesetz for info (283-3050). (Fourth Sunday in Feb was changed because of the Academy Awards!)

MATINEE IDLE will go to the movies on Thursday, March 26th. We usually pick the movie at the beginning of that week, so please phone Marlene (689-5439) if you are interested. We always have coffee, or something, after the movie to discuss it.

EVENING BRIDGE will meet on Monday, March 2nd, 7:00 pm @ Elizabeth DiPietro's.

BOARD MEETING will meet at Ish Mendonsa's on Wednesday, March 11th, 2009, 7:15 pm.

NIMBLE FINGERS will meet on Friday, March 20th, 10:30 am @ Judi Hamberg's, 414 Isabel Drive, Mtz. Please let Judi know if you plan to attend.

PLAYREADING will not meet in March. Their next meeting will be Tues April 21st @ 10 am. Save the date and time. Place will be announced in the April Newsletter. We will begin reading the 3 act comedy play "You Can't Take it with You".

Genealogy We will be having two activities this month:

1. **Friday, March 20, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** - Workshop at the National Archives, San Bruno. Topic: "**Census Records Research.**" This is the first in a series of seven workshops done by Rose Mary Kennedy, Genealogy Specialist.
2. Field trip to the **California Genealogy Library in Oakland**. This library has an extensive collection of old maps from all over the states. It also has state and federal census records. Google their web site for more information. A docent tour will be arranged. This will be done in March. The date and time has yet to be determined.

*** AND *** Mark your calendar for The **Sonoma County Genealogical Society Spring Seminar** on Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Santa Rosa. The guest speaker will be Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck. This seminar has always been the highlight of our field trips. Contact Kay Ernst if you are interested in any of the above.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP:

Many thanks to those of you who have donated to our Local Scholarship Fund. Applications are pouring in from College Park & DVC. We hope to honor as many scholarships as we can. If, for some reason you did not receive our Silent Tea Party invitation, please contact Susi Weight @ 946-9939.

Thanks to our NEWS Supporters

MONEYMOVERS INVESTMENT CLUB will meet on Monday March 9, 2009, 7:00 pm @ UBS Financial Services, 2185 N. California Blvd, Ste 400, WC.



Save the Date: More to follow: Saturday, May 2, 2009 – 2:00 pm

Ice Cream Social and more plus introduction of Local Scholarship and Tech Trek Honorees. Brookview Club House, Concord.

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW's Capitol Lobby Corps kicked off a new session of Congress with training for new and old members. Founded in 1972, Lobby Corps still goes to Capitol Hill every Thursday that Congress is in session to fight for issues that are pertinent to equity in education, protection of civil and reproductive rights, and measures of economic security. Interested in knowing more? Go to www.aauw.org and click on the Lobby Corps' page.

International Women's Day is Thursday, 5 March and you can celebrate by attending the movie, "A POWERFUL NOISE," playing at our downtown Pleasant Hill Century 16 at 8 pm. Call the theatre for tickets before the date. The movie is about Hanh, an HIV-positive widow in Vietnam; Nada, a survivor of the Bosnian war and Jacqueline, who works in the slums of Bamako, Mali. These three diverse characters share something in common: Power. Through their empowerment and ability to empower others, they fight AIDS, rebuild communities and educate girls. "A POWERFUL NOISE" is a meditation on the inherent potential of women to change the world. *Marlene Maksel, Chair*

Thank you:

Thanks for your Christmas time donation to our Layette Program. In 2008, 223 layettes were distributed to needy babies through county social workers and public health nurses. Our shelves were rather depleted, so we really appreciated your helping us out. In fact, we used some of your items the very day they were delivered. Thank you again for supporting our program. Barbara Cotton, Coordinator

Legal Advocacy Fund

As many of you have already read in the paper, **President Obama signed the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law.** Let's hope this is a sign of more changes to come!

In a press release dated January 2009, the AAUW applauded President Barack Obama for signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which restores the long-standing interpretation of civil rights laws and EEOC policies **that allow employees to challenge any discriminatory paycheck they receive.**

Lilly Ledbetter is perhaps the best-known face of pay equity. She worked for nearly two decades at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Gadsden, Alabama. Despite receiving top performance awards, Ledbetter discovered that she had been paid significantly less than male co-workers with the same job. After her November 1998 retirement, she filed suit under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and was awarded back pay and other remedies in a jury trial. The U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision not only erased Ledbetter's award, but also left women, minorities, and others in Ledbetter's situation with virtually no recourse to pay discrimination.

Statistics on women in the workplace speak to the need for action. The average woman earns just 78 cents of every dollar earned by her male counterparts, and disparities appear just one year out of college — even for those with the same job and the same major. Women of color make even less.

"This victory has energized us," said Lisa Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations. President Obama and Congress have made a good down payment on their promise to close the wage gap, but we're not resting on our laurels. **The House also passed the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill which would close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act,** and AAUW and our allies are determined to see the Senate do the same."

Here's your chance to witness history: **Join Lilly Ledbetter, perhaps the best-known face of pay equity, at AAUW's 2009 National Convention: *Breaking through Barriers*, in St. Louis, June 26-28, 2009.** Book your airfare with American Airlines and receive a 5 percent discount by using coupon code **A1269AS.**

Note: I still haven't decided what to do about fundraising. I'm trying to find out what the face of Legal Advocacy will look like before asking for contributions. I have reached out to the State leaders in late January for additional guidance and am waiting to hear back from them. You'll see me around next year as we continue to transition the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Victoria Manassero Maat, Chair

2009 AAUW National Convention. Plan to attend. June 26 – 28, 2009 at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel, St. Louis, Mo.

For more information about National Convention registration, please visit

www.aauw.org/convention

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is collecting canceled commemorative stamps for our veterans in rehabilitation centers. Also washable, acrylic yarn which is used to make afghans, 4' x 6' or 3' x 4', for veterans or for the County Layette Program. If you have either or both of the above you wish to pass on to our vets please give them to either Kay Ernst or Judy Onopchenko.

English Tutors Needed - Volunteer to help non-English speaking adults to read, write and speak English well enough to function in our society. We will teach you to be a tutor. The required tutor-training workshops will be held on Saturday, March 7, 9a.m.-1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday March 14, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Diablo Valley Literacy Council, 4000 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94521. There is a \$15 non-refundable registration fee. For more information or to register, please call Shirley Mattes at 925-685-3881.

AAUW Amador's Annual Home Tour, "Vineyards and Views" Saturday, April 18, 2009, 11AM – 4PM. Benefits: college scholarships for women and girls. Tickets \$22/ \$25 on day of the Tour. Order tickets up to April 10: AAUW Home Tour, 21210 Ostrom Rd, Fiddletown, CA 95629. Information: www.aauwamador.org, or contact Lani Chapman: 209-245-6052, chapman@volcano.net.

SAM (Student, Art & Music)

VOLUNTEERS



Lynn Murphy, Alana Macdonald, Mary McGhee, Margi Alkire & Marilyn Tubbs, just a few of the AAUW members who volunteered in February, showing off the student Monet paintings that lined the walls in the multi use room at Fair Oaks. Many thanks to Mary McGhee who arranged and taught the students about Monet and Mozart. And thanks to volunteers, Jean DeGregory, Ish Mendonsa, Marlene Maksiel, Suzanne Mesetz, Kathy Searles and Kris Peerand. Students and teachers are so appreciative of this program.

IN MEMORIAM

LETITIA CORUM 1935 – 2009

AAUW Chief Financial Officer

We are sad to report that an important figure in AAUW, Letitia Corum, passed away on January 3 from pancreatic cancer.

A list of her achievements is included in an article posted on the AAUW-CA website at www.aauw-ca.org

The **Letitia Corum Memorial Fund #4329** has been established and will be active from January 2009 until January 2010.

The goal of the fund is to collect \$25,000 of the \$35,000 needed to print and distribute the AAUW research report on *Girls in STEM* (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) in January 2010.

Checks should be made payable to: **AAUW-EF** with *Letitia Corum Memorial Fund #4329* printed in the memo line.

Expanding Your Horizons Conference 2009

Expanding Your Horizons is a one-day career exploration conference focusing on math, science, and technology for 6th through 8th grade young women from all over the area- -a veritable one-day Tech Trek.

Workshops are the heart of EYH. Two 70-minute workshops are held.

Girls, in groups of 10-15, participate in hands-on science-, math-, or technology- related activities and interact with professionals and science enthusiasts. Students are assigned to their selected workshops on a first come, first served basis.

The conference takes place at Diablo Valley College on Saturday, March 7 from 8:30a.m. to 2:00p.m.

Check out the websites at:

eyhdvc@expandingyourhorizons.org or www.dvc.edu/eyh

If you would like to volunteer or for more information about the EYH conference or any of the workshops, please contact: Kit Hein @ 228.7503.

CATCH THE WAVE AT CONVENTION 2009



MISSION IN MOTION April 24 – 26, 2009

Register on line.

Go to www.aauw-ca.org and click the

“register now” button.

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Frugal Foodies 6:00 pm @ Devino's' Call Suzanne Mesetz	Evening Bridge 7:00 pm @ Elizabeth DiPietro's		Morning Books 10:00 am @ Ginny Hargrave's			
 Daylight Savings Time Begins			In Indelible Ink 10:00 am @ Marilyn Tubbs' AAUW Board 7:15 pm @ Ish Mendonsa's			
		 Rachel Carson film 7:00 pm @ Hillcrest Church			Nimble Fingers 10:30 am @ Judi Hamberg's Genealogy Field Trip San Bruno	
	Evening Books 7:00 pm @ Gretel Holit's			Movie Idle Matinee Marlene Maksud for info First Day of Spring		
Frugal Foodies 6:00 pm Call Suzanne Mesetz for info			Chamber Joint Mixer with Lafayette on March 11, 5:30 pm. @ Absolute Pilates Center, 3658 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Contact Ingrid @ 687-0700 if you plan to attend.			



Pleasant Hill Branch

18 Monivea Place
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Membership – AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. AAUW is open to all graduates of two year accredited colleges with AA degrees and/or accredited four year colleges or universities. In principle and practice AAUW values and supports diversity. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.