

🌸 Making Waves: the Women of AAUW

Well, the big news is that an AAUW member won the Nobel Prize in “Physiology or Medicine” along with her two colleagues, Elizabeth Blackburn and Jack Szostak. Imagine that. Remember when a woman couldn’t even get a credit card in her own name?

Congratulations to Drs. Greider and Blackburn (and Szostak too), and to AAUW members who have worked to open doors for women since 1881.

In fact, five of the 2009 Nobel Prizes went to women.

The others are Dr. Ada Yonath, Chemistry; novelist and poet Herta Mueller, Literature; and, notably, Dr. Elinor Ostrom for Economic Sciences—the first woman ever to win the economics prize.

From the history bag: in 1921 AAUW members gave Nobel Prize-winning scientist Marie Curie \$156,413 toward the purchase of one gram of radium. Check this out: https://svc.aauw.org/museum/history/1920_1929/index.cfm.

Up here in the “frozen north” it is easy to think of AAUW as consisting only of our branch, the friends we have made, books, and bridge, but AAUW is far more than that. We make waves!

For example, AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE, will make a presentation before the National Science Foundation’s Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering. She will discuss the ways AAUW supports promoting and strengthening science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education for women and girls, an approach that includes fellowships and grants, publication of research findings, and pursuit of new public policy.

(I hope Linda tells them about Tech Trek!)

California-wise, at their October meeting the state AAUW board of directors again tweaked the way the board is selected.

Under the previous bylaws, the sixteen directors were elected by the members (eight each year), and the directors elected the officers. The amended bylaws call for the four officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Chief Financial Officer) to be elected directly by the members who are at the convention.

So we members will, once again, be responsible for choosing the women who will be in charge of AAUW California.

The amended bylaws can be found on the website (<http://www.aauw-ca.org>) in the **Forms & Documents** section, under **Governance**. Nomination forms for officer and director positions (yourself? Someone you know?) can be found at the same site.

By the way, there are heaps of information you can use on the newly designed and updated website. Do check it out. If you have any trouble with passwords or user names, ask me.

Did I mention the state convention? April 30th through May 2nd, 2010, in San Ramon (on 680 near Walnut Creek). This is close enough for some of you to join me. There may also be a pretty big event, near and dear to those of us who support Tech Trek.

-Carol Holzgrafe, Co-State Coordinator,
AAUW-California Tech Trek
carol@holzgrafe.com

Holiday Party!

for

Members, Spouses and Guests

Tuesday, December 15th, 2009

5:00 – 7:00 PM

The Gold Nugget Museum
502 Pearson Rd., Paradise

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share for the buffet table.

We will be collecting unwrapped, new books for children, ages 1–18; please see the details on page 3.

This year’s event includes wine, hot cider, and a chance to visit and share together in the holiday spirit.

Join us
for this festive occasion!



The View from Here

Branch Financial Status

We reviewed the branch budget and reserve accounts at the Fall Luncheon, but for those members who were absent here is an account summary as of August 31st.

Assets belonging to our branch:	\$3932.29
Reserve accounts (set aside for charitable causes):	
EF	\$1692.42
LAF	\$721.14
Tech Trek	\$1890.08
Pence Scholarship	\$539.89
Memorial Fund	\$26.25

The Fall Luncheon raised \$484 for the Pence Scholarship Fund, which now holds \$1023.89. The revenue came from admissions, raffle tickets, and donations. Thank you for your generosity!

Book Donations

The board has added a new line to the budget for Book Donations, to provide additional funds for the purchase of Women's History books for local schools. There is \$25 budgeted in that line. The Memorial Fund reserve, currently at \$26.25, is also used for these purchases.

In addition, members may want to consider making a special donation to the Book Donation fund to increase our purchasing power for this year. Last year we were able to donate some terrific books to the school libraries, including *Julia Morgan Built a Castle*, *Women Making America*, *Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales of Strong Girls*, and *Winning the Vote*.

Branch Reorganization?

AAUW National now allows branches to amend their by-laws to allow a more flexible type of branch leadership. We could, if we chose, have only two named officers—an administrative contact and a financial contact to receive info from the higher levels of AAUW. We could then run our branch more by joint action rather than having one person responsible for a given area of concern.

I don't know whether this would work for us or not, but the difficulty that our nominating committee sometimes has in finding people willing and able to be an officer or committee chair may be an indication that a more communal job-sharing style would be more attractive. Something to think about.

See you at the Holiday Party on December 15!

-Satsie Veith, Branch President

Public Policy Works for Us

This is what's happening in the Public Policy Arena. To save space and to include the maximum "happenings", you will find lots of websites to play around in. This is your homework for the month of November.

If you aren't online, or are unsure of the process, take this article to your library. They will help.

- Congress approved the purchase of a building to house the first National Women's History Museum across from the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

- AAUW released policy recommendations to complement *The Shriver Report—A Woman's Nation Changes Everything*, produced by the Center for American Progress.

From the AAUW release: "For the first time in our nation's history, women make up half of all workers and are becoming the primary breadwinners in more families than ever before. Times have changed, but policies at government, education and business institutions haven't kept up.

The report highlights the rise of women in the workforce and emphasizes that workingwomen and their families lack the support they need to thrive in today's world. This will not be news to our membership.

You will find the recommendations and a new Program in a Box at http://www.aauw.org/member_center/programs/womansnation.cfm. AAUW created both to help branches bring the report to life in an attempt to improve the situation.

Contacting our legislators, state and federal:

- Congressman Wally Herger:

<http://www.herger.house.gov/>

- State Senator Sam Aanestad and Assemblyman Dan Logue:

<http://www.legislature.ca.gov/>

- U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer:

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

-Carol Holzgrafe, Public Policy Chair

Catch Us On The Web!

<http://www.aauwparadise.org>

January Branching Out deadline is December 20th. Please e-mail your submissions to jim@holzgrafe.com.



Soup Supper 2010

Our Annual Soup Supper will take place on **Monday, January 25th at Appletree Village. Bring your family and friends for Tech Trek's Campership Fundraiser.** Starting time is 6:00 PM for refreshments and an opportunity to check out our prize winning items; dinner will be served at 6:30 PM.

Prior to prize drawings past campers will be speaking about their camp experiences. We will be celebrating our twelfth year of sending thirty 8th grade girls to Stanford Tech Trek camp. We hope to be able to continue to provide this special experience for Ridge girls. The cost of each campership is \$800.

Members can assist with this fundraiser by volunteering to bring a crock-pot of soup and/or being in charge of wine, bread, salad, or drinks. We also need help with setup and cleanup. Soup makers can get one free dinner ticket if they wish. **Contact Marygrace Colby.**

We will need donations for our prize drawings. Please save any special new, or really special like-new, items. We are also looking for prizes which involve donated services, such as a hair date, massage, etc. **Contact Jackie Westbrook.**

Once again we are bringing back our 4th annual Book Sale. Just bigger and better. Start saving books that you've read that you think others would enjoy. There will be bargains.

The January Branching Out will provide information on donated items and reservations.

-Marygrace Colby, Tech Trek Coordinator

Holiday Party Book Donations

For the past several years our branch has been collecting Children's Books at our Holiday Party. They are given to children in need in our community through the Family Resource Center and their "Giving Program". Our member Kelly Conner will gather the books and deliver them to the Center where they will be distributed in age-related gift bags. Once again this year we are requesting that you bring along a new unwrapped book, for any age up to 18, for this beneficial program.

Many thanks to Kelly for her efforts and to all the members who participate. Our appreciation also goes to Connie Rogers for helping to make available the delightful Gold Nugget Museum for our holiday gathering.

-Laurie Baker, Holiday Party Chair

Women's History Sign-ups

Would you like to help bring the accomplishments of women in California's history to life for 4th graders here on the Ridge? If so, please volunteer to be a part of our March Women's History project. The dates for our classroom presentations are March 8th-12th and the 15th-19th. If you would like to assume a role or assist as a classroom helper please contact Carole Chumbler or Phyllis Larsen.

-Carole Chumbler, Women's History Chair

Interest Groups and Special Dates

Annual Tech Trek Soup Supper Monday, Jan 25th, 2010. **SAVE THE DATE!**

November Walk in the Park Friday, Nov 20th. Come, join the hiking group for a Chico Walk in the Park followed by lunch at "Peter Chu's Mandarin Cuisine" restaurant on Cohasset Road. This will be a Lower Bidwell Park walk on paved paths from Sycamore Pool to Manzanita Ave., about a five mile loop which is easy to shorten if so desired. Meet at Paradise Park-and-Ride, Friday at 9 AM.

Peter Chu's restaurant is on Cohasset Road across from Trader Joe's; Saturday lunch hours are 11:00 AM-2:00 PM. Please let us know if you are coming; we don't want to leave without you! Phyllis Larsen, 877-3369.

Evening Book Group is always open to new members, either singly or with a significant other. We meet every 6-8 weeks on Friday evenings at 7:30 PM. Location rotates among the homes of members, where the discussion of a book is followed by dessert and coffee. If you're interesting in joining us, call Mary Johnson at 877-3906 or Dianne Lorenz at 872-8967 for the date and location.

Morning Book Group Combined meeting (Nov/Dec), Dec 3rd between 10 and noon. The book is *The Spirit Catches You And You Fall Down*, by Anne Fadiman. It's about the Hmong, an ethnic group originally of the mountains of Southeast Asia, and is on reserve for AAUW at the Paradise Library; it should be available by Nov. 1st. Contact Connie Ferrell at 873-0725.

Pot Luck Group welcomes new members—couples or singles. You cook only one dish and enjoy a great meal and even greater conversation. If you are interested, please call Marilyn Eldridge at 873-1029.



Calendar

(All Board Meetings at 7 PM, Oak Knoll Library)

November 2009

Tuesday, 10th: Board Meeting
(No Branch Meeting)

December 2009

No Board Meeting
Tuesday, 15th: Holiday Party,
Gold Nugget Museum, 5 PM–7 PM

January 2010

Saturday, 23rd: Career Trek,
Butte College, 8:30 AM–2:00 PM
Tuesday, 12th: Board Meeting
Monday, 25th: Soup Supper, Appletree Village, 6 PM

February 2010

Saturday, 6th: IBC Luncheon, Gridley
Tuesday, 9th: Board Meeting
(No Branch Meeting)

March 2010

Tuesday, 9th: Board Meeting
Tuesday, 16th?: Branch Meeting TBA.

April 2010

Tuesday, 13th: Board Meeting
Tuesday, 22nd?: Branch Meeting TBA.

May 2010

Tuesday, 11th: Board Meeting
Saturday, 22th: Spring Luncheon; Location TBA.

Dramatis Personae

President:	Satsie Veith
Treasurer:	Kay Hinerman
Secretaries:	Dianne Lorenz Merrie McLaughlin
VP EF/LAF:	Connie Ferrell
VP Membership:	Katie Rosenberg
Editor:	Jim Holzgrafe



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