

CLAYTON AAUW March 2007 NEWS

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

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March General Meeting

**Mon., March 26th 7:30pm
at Diamond Terrace**

6401 Center Street, Clayton

**“How to Ask For What You
Want”
(Be Careful What You Ask For)**

**Guest Speaker
Karen Leffler**

Karen Leffler, Toastmasters International Member and Speech Coach, promises an informative meeting that will open up our minds to what we want for ourselves in our lives.

AAUW membership

AAUW membership is open to all people of any gender who hold an associate degree or higher. Students working toward a qualifying degree may become student affiliates. In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks members of every race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, and level of physical ability.

Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Jay

Members may submit articles, quips & photos, which are subject to editing and condensation. April issue deadline: 3/22/07 5:00pm. E-mail to JJay925@comcast.net or mail to: 366 Blue Oak Lane, Clayton, CA 94517.

One Shared World: Hope is our Common Language

Rosemary Harwood, President

On January 30th, AAUW broadcast a live web and audio event to introduce the *One Shared World* program to members in states across the country. AAUW is in its second year of this important partnership and campaign to raise awareness of global poverty and its effects on women and girls around the world and generate dialogue about what we, as Americans, can do to help tackle it.

One Shared World is funded by the United States Agency for International Development and supported by several prominent women-oriented volunteer organizations, such as AAUW. *One Shared World* was founded to celebrate the power of women to promote change and seeks to engage American women in thinking about and supporting the many public and private efforts that help people in developing countries live better, healthier, and more productive lives. The campaign offers resources for women, their friends, and colleagues to learn more about development assistance, find tools to encourage others to get involved, or discover a personal way to do more to end global poverty.

Thanks to global trade, travel, and communication, our national borders are, in a sense, melting away. The coffee we drink, the shoes we wear, the customer service line we call—all link us to people throughout the world. Global poverty links us, too. What happens abroad affects our health, our jobs, our environment, our security, our way of life. AAUW members, with their deeply held values of generosity, social justice, and activism, have the power to make a difference.

As the local level, there are several options to raise awareness of global poverty:

- Plan a Branch meeting on global poverty. The website has free tools to help plan and promote such a program. www.onesharedworld.org
- Read books relating to global poverty for the AAUW Book Club. There are several books targeting this subject by Faith D’Aluisio and Peter Menzel, such as *Women in the Material World* and *Hungry*

Planet: What the World Eats.

- Participate in the joint Clayton/Concord Branches Great Decisions discussions each year in February and March. Each year this group reads eight Foreign Policy issues presented by the Foreign Policy Association, the nation's oldest organization devoted to citizen education in world affairs. This year the final topic is 'Helping the World's endangered Children', which is certainly a topic related to the *One Shared World* program.
- Volunteer at the local or national level. Check out the following websites:
www.habitat.org/
www.globalvolunteer.org/

Some of our members are already involved both locally and internationally in the fight against poverty. Won't you consider joining in this important mission?

Progress in Equity Award

Each year the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund's Progress in Equity Award recognizes a college or university program that has resulted in significant progress for women on campus. Recipients receive a stipend of up to \$10,000 and public recognition throughout their communities, campus, and AAUW.

Send your nominations if your program: Demonstrates significant progress towards equity for women faculty, staff or students; Offers an innovative and exemplary mission; Addresses the needs of diverse groups of women in terms of race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class; Is replicable or adaptable by other institutions.

Winners of past programs included: family leave policies, campus climate studies, women's athletics, and mentoring for women students and faculty. 2005 Winner was Northeastern University, Boston, MA for 'Connections' which strengthened pathways for women and girls to pursue careers in engineering. Application deadline is March 15, 2007. For nomination forms or information, contact AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (a program of the AAUW Educational Foundation). e-mail laf@aauw.org or visit website www.aauw.org.

TechTrek

Kay Lane, TechTrek Coordinator

Tech Trek camp is a math/science camp for girls going into eight grade sponsored by AAUW. The Clayton Business and Community Association voted to match funds with Clayton AAUW in order to send three girls to Tech Trek camp. Cynthia Brewington, science teacher at Diablo View Middle School, has nominated five girls. By March 12, 2007, they must complete an application form and write an essay entitled, "What does science mean to you in your life today?" During the week of March 19, a committee consisting of Kay Lane, Dee Totman, Joan Chesterman and a C.B.C.A. representative will be interviewing the girls and their parent(s). The committee will make a decision by April 1 which girls will be attending Tech Trek camp at Mills College

AAUW Clayton Branch Spaghetti Feed March 7th at Endeavor Hall,

Marcia Hart

The plans for our big fundraiser are well underway. I extend a hearty THANK YOU to everyone who signed up to work a shift and make sauce, brownies or cookies. It is very exciting to have everyone pitch in so readily. With so much participation, we are bound to have fun as well as make money.

We want to get the water boiling on the stove at 3:00 Wednesday afternoon. Those who would like to remain in the kitchen let me know. Set up will commence at 3:30. So men, please be there then to set up the tables. The YMCA will be at Endeavor Hall just prior to our dinner, so they will be cleaning up as the water boils. The second shift will be at 6:30 and includes clean up at 8PM.

The black and white dress code is just a guideline, so that diners will know who we are. Also wear your name tag. We would like to give the impression that we know what we are doing. We are still waiting to see if we will get donations from businesses for our cause.

If you have any comments, concerns or can volunteer to help, call Joann Caspar, Dee Billeter or Marcia Hart.

Nominating Committee

The AAUW Clayton Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for the year 2007-2008 which will be voted on at the April 23 General Meeting:

President **Dana McDaniel**; President Elect **Jean Cain**; Program VPs **Dee Totman, Mary Ann Hayes, Adela Oldford**; Educational Foundation VP **Joan Chesterman & Rosemary Harwood**; Legal Advocacy Fund VP **Diane Rogers & Priscilla Schmalzel**; Treasurer **Carol Wolfe**; Secretary **Judy Bates**; Membership VP **Marcia Hart & Joann Caspar**.

Speak Out for Reproductive Freedom in Sacramento

On Wednesday, March 21 2007, head up to the Sacramento Convention Center from 9:00 to 4:30 to 1) Educate your Legislatures; 2) Caucus with Women's Health Advocates from all over California; 3) Protect Women's Health Rights; 4) Learn about emerging issues. This event is sponsored by the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom. If anyone wants to carpool up to Sacramento, contact Jeanne Boyd at 672-3672. For more information about this event, contact Jo Ann Madigan (415) 346-0563 or e-mail jomadigan@earthlink.net.

Stand Against Domestic Violence

Please join the Concord Branch AAUW on Wednesday, March 21st at the Ygnacio Valley Library at 7pm. Venia Royston, a representative from Stand Against Domestic Violence, will speak about the work and the goals of this organization.

Their shelter can use new or slightly used twin comforters and pillow cases. They can also use pails with cleaning materials for those moving into apartments. If you wish to donate any of these things, the items can be brought to the meeting and will be gratefully accepted.

The meeting will begin with cookies, coffee and tea and a short business meeting. It is open to the public. Ygnacio Valley Library is located at 2662 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek. The meeting room is located on the side of the library, as is the parking. Hope to see you there. Invite a friend to a meeting.

How to Ask For What You Want

Clayton Branch AAUW General Meeting on March 26 at 7:30pm at Diamond Terrace will feature Toastmaster International member and speech coach Karen Leffler. Karen offered her services as Speech Coach for the AAUW Speech Contest and had put together a shortened manual for the girls to develop their speech skills. Unfortunately, she never got to use it because no girls from Clayton Valley or Concord High Schools applied for SpeechTrek. We will sponsor Speech Trek again this fall and plan sooner in the high schools. Karen is well spoken and Program VPs invited her to speak at our March General Meeting on the topic of "How to Ask For What You Want: Be Careful What You Ask For". It promises to be informative and at the same time open up our minds to what we want for ourselves in our lives.

Women in Politics

Pleasant Hill AAUW invites you to the Pleasant Hill City Hall Council Chambers on Wednesday, March 21st 7:00pm to meet and hear New City Manager June Catalano speak on the topic "Women in Politics. The meeting is open to the public.

Creekside Arts Celebration! The Clayton Community Library Foundation (CCLF) is announcing its 4th annual **Creekside Arts Celebration!** This free public event will highlight both visual and performing arts and provide entertainment for all ages including local celebrity guest author, Gary Bogue and illustrator, Chuck Todd, local musicians and participation from local schools. The new artists group, Creekside Artists that meets at the library will also be selling and demonstrating their art forms. This year's event will be held on March 2nd from 5-8 artists preview, March 3rd from 10-6 and March 4th from 1-5. CCLF, a 501c3, non-profit organization, is sponsoring this community fundraising celebration. 20% of all sales will go towards supporting the library wildlife habitat, environmental education programs and related materials for the library.

Education as a Gateway to Women's Economic Security

Why saving for retirement so important for women

- **Longevity:** Women today live longer than men do. Women who retire at 65 can expect to live for another 20 years. This longer life span causes women to be more likely to deplete their retirement savings. In 2005, 12% of women 65 and older were living in poverty, compared with 7% of men in the same age group, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Because women live longer than men, they spend more money on health care, including nursing home costs, health insurance, and more.
- **Caretaking:** Women are the primary caretakers of children and aging parents, and because of this, women are more likely to take time out of the workforce than men. Women are also more likely to work part-time than men, making it harder to receive benefits and eligibility for pension or 401(k) plans.
- **Wages:** Overall, a woman earns 75 cents for every dollar a man earns. Even though women are going to college in higher numbers than men and are succeeding in greater numbers, women still earn less than men, leaving them with less money to save.

Here are some solutions from recent articles and sources that will help women plan properly for their future:

- **Save, save, save!** According to a recent *Boston Globe* article, the rule of thumb for men is to save 10% of their salaries for retirement every year. But a financial planner from eMoney Advisor suggests that women save 12% to cover their longer retirements and interrupted work lives.
- **Earn.** Even if you're staying at home with the kids, find a way to make money. This can be as simple as babysitting, freelancing, consulting, or working a part-time job. Any income is beneficial.
- **Contribute.** Keep putting money in your company's 401(k) plan—even if it's a small percentage of your paycheck each month.
- **Invest.** Picking investments wisely can be beneficial in the long run. Read up on investments or contact a financial advisor. Another reason women should seek investment advice is that women tend to invest more conservatively than men and receive lower rates of return over time.

Read the AAUW Report: *Mom's Retirement Security* at <http://www.aauw.org/research/mothersdaypoll2006.cfm>

Upcoming Events

Fri. March. 2nd 5:45pm Bowling @ Clayton Valley Bowl

Please call Marcia 827-9540 if you like to bowl! Spouses and friends welcome.

Mon. March 5th 7:30pm Board Meeting @ Rosemary's

Wed., Mar. 7th 5:30pm to 8:00 pm At Endeavor Hall, Clayton Spaghetti Feed

Clayton AAUW Tech Trek fundraiser. The dinner includes pasta, choice of sauce, garlic bread, salad, non-alcoholic beverage and dessert. Beer and wine available for purchase. Dinner tickets are \$10 adults; \$5 for children 6-12 years and Free for children under 6 years.

Wed., March 14th 7:30pm At Mary Ann Hayes'

Ladies Evening Bridge

Hostess will call Bridge Group members to see who will play. If you would like to join, call Mary Ann Hayes at 672-4391.

Wed., March 21st 9am - 4:30pm At Sacramento Convention Center

Speak Out for Reproductive Freedom See article.

Wed., March 21st 7:00pm At Ygnacio Valley Library Stand Against Domestic Violence

Wed., March 21st 7:00pm At Pleasant Hill City Hall Women in Politics

Sat., March 24th 7:30pm At Barbara Fogerson's Couple's Bridge

If you are interested in joining us, contact Carol Wolfe 672-1303.

Wed. March 28th 7:45pm At Sandi Watson's Evening Literature Contact Mary Ann Hayes 672-4391.

Mon. April 23rd 7:30pm At Diamond Terrace General Meeting-LAF Night

Joanne Brown, past AAUW California president will be present an interesting and informative program on recent Legal Advocacy Fund litigants and cases. Concord Branch is invited and refreshments will be served. Open to the public.

Did you travel somewhere fun or have great news to share? Send a brief description and photo to newsletter editor Jennifer Jay at JJay925@comcast.net.