



# CLAYTON BRANCH NEWS

*AAUW promotes education and equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive social change.*

September 2006

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### Membership Lunch

Enjoy salad luncheon while seeing the fall fashions from J. Jill shown by our own lovely models. Get an overview of AAUW and hear our scholarship recipients talk about their adventures at Tech Trek.

**Sat., Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 11:30am-1:30 pm**  
**at First United Methodist Church**  
1645 West Street, Concord

Members, please bring a salad.

Invite a prospective member.  
RSVP by 9/25 with name of guest(s)  
to Jean Cain at 672-5539 (e-mail  
[imalarnin@aol.com](mailto:imalarnin@aol.com)) or

Mary Ann Hayes at 672-4391 (e-mail  
[maryannahayes@astound.net](mailto:maryannahayes@astound.net))

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. October issue deadline: 9/21/06 5:00pm. E-mail to JJay925@comcast.net or mail to: 366 Blue Oak Lane, Clayton, CA 94517.

## Membership Luncheon

Our annual Membership Luncheon will be at First United Methodist Church on September 30 from 11:30 to 1:30pm. Members are asked to bring a salad and a prospective member. See details on left.

### AAUW: Keys to the Future

Over the last 125 years, AAUW has established an unequalled legacy of involvement and advocacy. Now as a member, you are invited to assure the continuation of that legacy as an active participant in *AAUW Keys to the Future: A Member-Get-A-Member* campaign.

The primary key to the future of AAUW is personal involvement. Current members are in the best position to identify and recruit new members. A personal commitment by members to assure AAUW's continued strength is key to the organization's future.

To get started: simply invite your prospective member to a meeting and join AAUW. When the membership enrollment is sent in, be sure that your (the recruiter's) membership number is included with the application. Incentives and Awards will be given at the end of every major "Challenge". An exclusive 125<sup>th</sup> Logo lapel Pin will be rewarded to those who recruit five or more members. Other special incentives will we awarded and are detailed on the association website.

### Shape the Future Campaign

Members joining through the Shape-the-Future campaign will qualify for Keys to the Future campaign. The Shape the Future Membership Campaign is a program used to help branches recruit new members by offering reduced membership rates for new or lapsed members (those who have not been a member for at least 2 years) to join on the spot during AAUW-sponsored activities. Those who meet this as well as membership criteria can take 50% off Association dues. Branch and state dues

are not affected. Thus if a prospective member joins at the 9/30 Membership Luncheon, their dues will be \$62.50 (\$22.50 savings off of full membership dues!), otherwise if joining any other time, dues will be \$85. Branches earn one free Association membership for every two members recruited on the spot.

### Give-a-Grad a Gift

Members joining through the Give A Grad a Gift campaign will not qualify for the Key to the Future campaign. Give-a-

Grad a Gift is now available for members only, year-round, and online at

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

AAUW members can now give a recent grad a free AAUW association membership (\$45 value) at no cost to you or her.

The recent grad can join a branch at any time but will be responsible for paying branch and state dues.



## President's Message

*Rosemary Harwood*



As the memories of a long, hot summer recede, it is time to get back in gear for all our routine activities. Make a difference with your AAUW membership by participating as much as your time allows in the myriad of available activities. Invite a new prospective member to attend one of our general meetings or interest groups. (Remember, as of last year, women with an associate or equivalent degree are now eligible for membership.)

AAUW celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday on November 28, 2006. Clayton Branch, chartered in 1974, approaches its 32<sup>nd</sup> year in service and continues to

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## Tech Trek: “Camp” without Really “Camping”

Over 500 girls enjoyed the experience of camp without really camping. “You can do anything!” “Be all you can be!” echoes from the moment a student is identified by a teacher at her school through the selection process, to finally going home after an exhilarating (but exhausting) week at a Tech Trek camp.

This past summer, Clayton Branch AAUW and CBCA sponsored Karen Schussman, Rachel Anderson and Adrienne Young from Diablo View Middle School to attend the Tech Trek Camp at Mills College.

The theme throughout the camp is the fun it is to share the experience on a college campus, living in a dorm with other girls with similar interests. Each of the camps is individually administered, but much is the same for all camps.

Core classes include subjects such as Bacteriology, Biology, Geology, Engineering (bridge building), Marine Biology, Orienteering (math), Solar Energy, Physics (roller coasters, hot air balloons), Forensics, Chemistry (manufacturing make-up!), Math and Geometry, Computers (film editing) and Space Science.

Field trip activities included Challenger Learning Centers to fly a simulated Mission to Mars and a visit to the Lawrence Hall of Science.

Mini-lab, short courses electives included Veterinary science (read X-rays, joints), DNA extraction, forensic sciences,

making polymers (GAK), oil spill clean-up, math games, and gemology,

In the evening hours, special activities included a Professional Women Dinner; skills clinics with professional soccer players; Ingenuity Night, Bat Biology, astronomy, talent shows, “Build It” Fairs.

Hands-on activities in core classes, rotating labs and field trips at Tech Trek camps help to make math and science fun along with being educational. Camp Directors have no problem identifying interested and competent teachers, as the word spreads every year from those who do participate. Several teachers have returned every year since Tech Trek began. Teachers in Tech Trek camps spend long hours gathering materials and preparing, all of which helps make the week an awesome and exhilarating experience.

AAUW member volunteers serve as counselors (surrogate mothers), nurses, and classroom aides. They provide the opportunity to bring like-minded middle school girls together for a week of involvement in fun math and science enrichment activities. Junior Counselors, former Tech Trek campers who return as helpers when they are in high school, are now an indispensable part of program. College grads serve as Senior Counselors.

Parent comments on evaluation forms reinforce why we offer Tech Trek: “She got a small taste of college life. She thought it was awesome. In fact, when I picked her up she said, ‘I feel like I live here already.’ That is a testament to the great job that AAUW-CA did. Thanks so much!”

## Letters from our Campers

Dear AAUW Clayton Branch Members:

Thank you so much for making it possible for me to go to Tech Trek. It was very interesting, and gave me a better view of what I might be when I get out of college. I also made some new friends that I’m sure to remember the rest of my life.

One thing that was particularly informative was the dinner with an actual marine biologist. I didn’t know half the things that she told us, and it really inspired me to be like her. I’ve always liked marine biology, but before I went to Tech Trek, I always discarded it as fantasy. Now I think that I could actually be a marine biologist. The biologist told my group about different kinds of marine biology, and about the kind she does. I’ve always been especially interested in the larger ocean mammals, and I think that it would be the most wonderful job in the world to find out about and take care of some of these amazing creatures.

Another thing that I found informative was the presentation on bats. I knew a little about bats when I came to Tech Trek, but not about what it’s like to take care of wild animals. I think that will help me with becoming a biologist. I also liked seeing live bats up close for the first time in my life.

One thing that I learned about every day life while I was at Tech Trek was how important it was to communicate with other people. On the mission to Mars expedition, I found out that if the astronauts didn’t talk to each other constantly, the mission would be a failure. They wouldn’t even be able to get the ship off the ground!

While I was at Tech Trek, I made a very good friend. Through the whole experience, we were inseparable. We talked about everything together, and we still keep in touch.

This experience has really inspired me to become a scientist, and I’m very grateful for giving me this experience.

**Karen Schussman**



L to R: Trekkers Karen Schussman and Rachel Anderson; Clayton Tech Trek Coordinator Kay Lane & CBCA President John Rubiales

## Letters from our Campers

An enormous thank you to you from my family and I for presenting me with the scholarship to the Tech Trek camp.

The camp has given me so many opportunities to see what I excel in and enjoy the most. I especially enjoyed the space-oriented curriculum and mission.

The information was so amazing and mind-blowing when I began to better understand how large and extreme the universe truly is.

I sincerely thank you once more for giving me this unique opportunity. I hope that I can use this experience in the future.

**Rachel Anderson**

I would just like to thank you for getting the money to send me to Tech Trek, Mills College. I had a lot of fun!

My favorite part of the camp was all the classes. I especially liked the Mars Mission. As part of the Isolation Team, I thought the mission was really exciting!

I am so happy to be able to come to Mills. I fell I am blessed to have this opportunity. Thank you.

**Adrienne Young**

### Clayton Branch Website

Did you know that Clayton Branch AAUW has a web site? Set this as a favorite link: [www.claytonaauw.org](http://www.claytonaauw.org).

New information is gladly accepted anytime and should be submitted to our webmaster [rkrane@yahoo.com](mailto:rkrane@yahoo.com).



Clayton Valley High School Awards night. Clayton AAUW Scholarship Chair Mary Anny Hayes, recipient Micaela Harvey & member Dee Totman.

## Micaela Harvey 2006 AAUW Scholarship Recipient from CVHS

Clayton Valley High School graduating senior, Micaela Harvey of Pittsburg, was presented our 2006 scholarship award of \$1,000 on May 24 at the Senior Awards dessert event at CVHS by Dee Totman and MaryAnn Hayes.

Micaela's academic achievements include earning Copper, Bronze, Silver and Gold pins for outstanding grades. She had been a four-year member of the California Scholarship Federation. She holds office in the Senior Women service organization and helped to put on their annual fashion show and organize the Holiday Drive. Micaela also participated on the Yearbook committee, Multicultural Club and Track and Field at Clayton Valley.

Outside of school she has been a member of her church youth choir and a Sunday school helper. She also volunteers in the after school program at Shore Acres Elementary School. Micaela's teachers describe her as personable, mature, a team worker, dedicated, goal oriented, and enthusiastic. She aspires to become a nurse as she pursues her college goals.

**Who will you  
invite to the  
Clayton AAUW  
Fall Membership  
Luncheon &  
Fashion Show?**

## Legal Advocacy Fund

With an impressive \$147,086, California was once again the top contributor to AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund this year. Thank you one and all for your generous donations last spring!

Trial in the case of Burch v. Regents of the University of California is set for October in a federal district court in Sacramento. Michael Burch filed for Title IX violations over two years ago. He alleged that UC Davis barred female participation in the wrestling program and subsequently terminated his contract after he demonstrated support for the female wrestlers in 2001. The Burch case is supported by the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

Lisa Maatz, interim director of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, reminds us that by offering our support to Michael Burch, AAUW is encouraging men and women to stand up in defense of those harmed by gender discrimination. More information on the case can be found at [www.aauw.org/laf/cases/burch.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/laf/cases/burch.cfm).

## 2006-2007 Proposed Budget

At the September 30 General Meeting, the branch will vote to adopt the following proposed budget for the Clayton Branch AAUW for the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,008</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>	
Membership (60@\$85)	\$5,100
Scrip Fundraising	400
Bridge Marathon	400
Fundraisers	2,200
Meals/Holiday Party	<u>300</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$8,400</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE</b>	<b>\$9,408</b>
<b>MANDATORY EXPENSES</b>	
Variable (60@\$65)	\$3,900
Fixed	257
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
Administrative	\$ 100
Travel/Leadership	1,195
Program/General Meetings	1,945
Publications	200
Projects*	1,775
Carry Over for 2007-08	<u>36</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$9,408</b>

\*Projects include Tech Trek, CVHS Scholarship, Women's History Month and Sunshine Fund.

## Public Policy

Jeanne Boyd, Public Policy Chair

AAUW has an extensive Public Policy Program. Members carefully watch California as well as Congressional Legislation. There is far too much information to share it all with you in this newsletter. It is much more effective for you to check out the status of the many bills which AAUW either supports or opposes on the appropriate web sites.

These can be accessed from our branch site at [www.claytonaauw.org](http://www.claytonaauw.org). Click on either CA AAUW link or the National link and go to Public Policy. Bills passed by the legislature before September 1 may be signed or vetoed by the Governor by September 30. So August and September can be a critical time for lobbying and writing letters. Please contact me if you would like more information and do not have internet access.

Every two years both Association and CA AAUW adopt Biennial Action Priorities based on AAUW's stated mission of *'Equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.'* We are currently operating under the 2005-2007 Action Priorities. All members are surveyed to determine the issues of importance to them before the next Biennial Priorities are set.

As individuals we may not always agree with AAUW's support of or opposition to certain bills. It is important to know that AAUW's name may NOT be used to oppose a stand taken by Association or CA AAUW.

Clayton Branch adopted a Candidate Endorsement Policy which relates to both partisan and non-partisan candidates for public office. Contact me if you would like a copy of this policy.

Clayton Branch has the option to act in coalition with other organizations on issues of common interest, after careful consideration of the pros and cons and approval of the Board.

On Monday, October 23 at 7:30pm at Diamond Terrace, Clayton Branch AAUW in conjunction with the League of Women Voters will present information about the Propositions on the November 7 Ballot. Watch for more information in the next newsletter. This meeting is open to the public.



August 26 is the 86<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment's passage, when women achieved the hard-fought right to vote. The day is now commemorated by celebrating Women's Equality Day each year. As we celebrate women's right to vote, we must also remember that equity is still an issue. While amazing progress has been made—and now AAUW has been a critical player in those gains—we still have work to do to create a truly equal environment for women and girls across the nation.



A major component of AAUW's Voter Education Campaign is Get the Facts, information alerts that link organizations and individuals across the nation. Every month, AAUW and other groups in the Women's Network for Change, e-mail alerts to subscribers, providing information about congressional actions that affect women and families. These alerts specify action that individuals and groups can take to strengthen the voice of women voters. To receive Get the Facts, call 800/608-5286 or go to [www.aauw.org/takeaction](http://www.aauw.org/takeaction).

## 49er Football Beer Booth Fundraiser



For the past few years, Concord Branch AAUW has ran a beer booth at 49er Football Home games at Monster (Candlestick) Park and have raised thousands of dollars each year to send girls to tech trek. They always need extra volunteers and invite surrounding AAUW branches to join them. You can volunteer for one or more Sunday games and must be at the stadium at 8:30am or 9:00am depending on the date. Concord members carpool. Available dates are: September 1, 17, 24; October 8, 15; November 5, 19; December 10, 24. If you are interested, contact Ronni Collmer at 890-0319 or e-mail [Ronni@TheCollmerTeam.com](mailto:Ronni@TheCollmerTeam.com) for more details.

## Fundraise while you Shop!

There are two ways you can raise funds for Clayton Branch AAUW's scholarship fund for Tech Trek and to a graduating senior girl at Clayton Valley while you shop directly at retail stores shop on the internet.

### eScrip



eScrip is a hassle-free way for schools and groups that support children's programs to raise funds through everyday purchases made at eScrip merchants. eScrip and merchant partners have created a system that rewards customers loyalty by contributing a percentage of purchases to your chosen group. Simple Registration:

- 1) Log on [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com) and go to "sign up".
- 2) Designate American Association of University Women (eScrip Group ID 137683940) to receive contributions.
- 3) Register your grocery club card from a participating merchant and your debit/credit cards.



Don't forget to renew your Safeway Club Card for our group to continue receiving Safeway contributions. Renew by 11/1. Have your Safeway Club Card Number available and visit [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com). Click "Yes! Renew". If you have not renewed, Safeway's contributions to our branch has **stopped**.

### iGive.com



Support Clayton AAUW by shopping online for brand-name items at over 662 well-known online stores. Get free deals and coupons. If you join iGive.com and make a purchase within 45 days from one of 662 or so participating stores, iGive.com will donate \$5 FREE to AAUW Clayton Branch. <http://www.iGive.com/html/refer.cfm?memberid=275938@causeid=21810> Shop the Mall at iGive.com. You'll see familiar stores like Lands' End, Office Dept, JCPenny, Neiman Marcus, Expedia, Barnes & Noble, and e-Bay to mention just a few. You can also renew your magazine subscriptions here. Up to 26% of EACH purchase gets donated!



Left to Right: 1) Sheila Driscoll 2) Robert & Sandi Robinson 3) Jennifer Jay

## Member News

Wondering what Clayton Branch AAUW members have been doing this past summer?

**Sheila Driscoll** enjoyed a trip that was very special for her. She went to Co. Cor, Ireland in June for the annual O'Driscoll family reunion. (Driscoll is Sheila's family name, which she maintained when she married Dewey Dobson, partially because she has always been content with her Irish identity.) The first evening, the reunion met in O'Driscoll Castle in Baltimore, Ireland, built in the early 1200's. A family has recently restored this castle which they now call home. Sheila's new found cousin took her to the islands where her grandparents lived before leaving for America. She was able to see their homes and to gain some understanding of how persevering and strong they were to reach America and build successful and satisfying lives in the United States. Their origins had been far from affluent. Her grandmother sent money home to Ireland from her small wages to give her four young nieces the opportunity to come to Worcester, MA for work and a better life with her.

Congratulations to **Sandi Watson** and **Robert Robinson** who were married June 10 at the Concord United Methodist Church. All of the attendants were members of the bride's and groom's families and included their five children and their respective spouses and all five grandchildren. The bride was escorted down the aisle by her brother and her son. The groom's family traveled from Texas for the big event. The couple honeymooned in Maui.

Through Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training program and a personal trainer, **Jennifer Jay** has been building her endurance and strength to prepare for the Nike Marathon in San Francisco this October and the California International Marathon in Sacramento this December. (A marathon distance is 26.2 miles.) In the past 14 weeks, she has run over 236 miles and has fundraised over \$5200 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. To see her training progress and photos, go to [www.active.com/donate/tntgsf/JJay](http://www.active.com/donate/tntgsf/JJay).

## President's Message-

*Cont'd from page 1*

make a difference in our community just as the state and national associations do for a broader spectrum of girls and women.

AAUW actively supports legislation on educational equity and diversity in public schools, pay equity, reproductive choice, child care, school-based health care, civil rights and responsible funding for public education. Although some of us may differ on these latter issues there is hopefully unanimity in regards to the AAUW focus on equity for women and girls and lifelong education for women.

Visit AAUW California website at [www.aauw-ca.org](http://www.aauw-ca.org) which gives both broad brushstrokes and in-depth analysis of the AAUW mission.

So we begin a new year. I ask each of you to become a visible and energetic member of the AAUW Clayton Branch. We can make a difference in our community.

## Upcoming Events

**Fri. Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> & Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> 5:45 p.m.**  
**Bowling @ Clayton Valley Bowl**  
 Please call Marcia 827-9540 if you like to bowl!  
 Spouses and friends welcome.

**Wed., Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m.**  
**at Allegra Mill's**  
**Ladies Evening Bridge**  
 Hostess will call Bridge Group members to see who will play. If you would like to join, call Allegra Mills 672-5552.

**Sat., Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:30 p.m.**  
**at Carol Wolfe's**  
**Couple's Bridge**  
 If you are interested in playing this year, contact Carol Wolfe 672-1303.

**Wed. Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m.**  
**Lunch and Movie**  
 If you signed up for this group, you'll be phoned the prior Monday with film choice, car pool options & lunch reservation. To be added to the list, call Julia 671-0467.

**Wed. Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> 7:45 p.m.**  
**at Aegis on Clayton Road**  
**Evening Literature**  
*Quentins* by Maeve Binchy. Contact Mary Ann Hayes 672-4391 with questions.

**Sat., Sep. 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**Membership Luncheon**  
 Please RSVP by 9/25. See page 1 for details.

**Mon. Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:30 p.m.**  
**at Rosemary Harwood's**  
**Clayton AAUW Board Meeting**

**Mon. Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:30 p.m.**  
**at Diamond Terrace**  
**General Meeting: The Ballot**  
**Propositions Pro & Con presented by**  
**the League of Women Voters**  
 Open to the public.

**Wed. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> 7:45 p.m.**  
**at Sandi Watson's**  
**Evening Literature**  
*My Honeymoon with My Brother* by Franz Wizer. Contact Mary Ann Hayes 672-4391.

**Sat., Nov 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Gourmet Group**  
 Clayton AAUW Gourmet has been meeting for over thirty years. View some of our past dinners at <http://www.claytonaauw.org/interests.html>. We have a fun group that likes to try the foods from other countries. Join us by experiencing the culinary foods from France at member's homes. RSVP to Jean Cain by calling 672-5539 or e-mail [imalarnin@aol.com](mailto:imalarnin@aol.com). You will be given a choice of food preparation. Guests are invited. If you need more information, contact, Jo Ann Caspar at 672-7680.

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**Membership Directory**  
 The Clayton Branch AAUW Membership Directory for 2006-2007 will be available at the November General Meeting. Please send all updates and suggestions for inclusion in the directory to Roseann Krane at [rkrane@yahoo.com](mailto:rkrane@yahoo.com) by the 11/3/06 deadline.