

January 2006

Special Interest

In case you were unable to attend Diana and Ray Bauer's November slide presentation and talk about their medical mission trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the summer of 2005 you are cordially invited to attend a similar presentation at 10:45 AM on Wednesday, March 15 in Oglesby Hall at Concord United Methodist Church, 1645 West Street in Concord. This program will follow the 10 AM regular meeting of United Methodist Women. (Men are welcome, too!) If you would like to stay for the lunch which follows it would be a courtesy to the cooks to let Diana know by March 8. Call her at 672-2502.

Cultural Exchange - January Meeting

Americans travel a great deal, and come back home with entertaining stories about the cultural differences they encountered. In this General Meeting, the shoe, as they say, will be on the other foot.

Come for a friendly dialog with immigrant women, who are successfully living in the United States. Hear their first impressions at arrival, their surprise, confusion and

evaluation of how things are done here. Finally, listen to how they made their adjustment to a different culture.

As an added bonus you will get to meet your neighbors, since the speakers live and work in this area. Come and meet-

- 1) Nahla Seikali from Lebanon
- 2) Meri Dehgham from Iran
- 3) Adora Lazaro from the Philippines

We are also expecting a speaker from India but she is back home and we are awaiting her return for confirmation.

**Monday, January 23, at 7:30 p.m.
Diamond Terrace**



Calendar

January 6-Bowling
 January 11—Evening bridge
 January 21- Couples bridge
 January 23 - Cultural Exchange-
 February 3 - Bowling
 February 6 - Great Decision
 February 8 - Evening bridge
 February 13 - Great Decisions 2
 February 20 - Great Decisions 3
 February 25 - EF luncheon
 February 26 - Couples Bridge
 February 27 - Great Decisions 4
 March 3 - Bowling
 March 6 - Great Decisions 5
 March 8 - Evening Bridge
 March 11 - Gourmet
 March 13 - Great Decisions 6
 March 20 - Great Decisions 7
 March 25 - Couples Bridge
 March 27 - Great Decisions 8

GREAT DECISIONS REMINDER

The briefing books are ordered and should be delivered by the middle of January. Anyone who still wishes to join this group for lively discussions of global affairs should contact Joanne Brown (jbrownaauw@astound.net) or JoAnn Caspar (gaycaspar@aol.com)

We meet on Mondays at 3:30 p.m. during February and March. The first session will be Monday, February 6. Joanne Brown 676-9048

Bowling is the first Friday of the month. Contact Marcia Hart if interested.



Update — stop extension of tax cuts

(NOTE- This information comes directly from the **AAUW Take Action** Web Site. You will need to go to the site, www.aauw.org, and click on the “**Take Action**” link in order to follow the instructions given at the end of this article.)

Stop Extension of Tax Cuts

Just before Thanksgiving, the House passed a budget reconciliation bill slashing \$50 billion from 10 federal entitlement programs, including Medicaid, college student loans, food stamps, and child support enforcement. The House measure would increase the cost of the average student loan by \$5,800, make about 220,000 people ineligible for food stamps, allow states to impose new costs on Medicaid beneficiaries, and cut funding to state child-support enforcement programs.

The House passed these spending cuts in order to offer permanent tax cuts for those least in need. After

cutting spending for the poor and the struggling middle class, the House is expected to vote tomorrow on the tax-cut portion of the budget reconciliation package that would mostly benefit the rich. The Tax Relief Extension Reconciliation Act of 2005 (H.R. 4297) would create \$56.6 billion in tax cuts.

This legislation would extend currently temporary tax concessions for capital gains and dividend income. The tax loopholes, enacted in 2003 and scheduled to expire at the end of 2008, allow capital gains and dividend income to be taxed at a top rate of 15 percent—less than half of the 35 percent top tax rate on wages and other income. If these provisions expire, as current law provides, dividends will once again be taxed at the same rates as other income, while the top capital gains tax rate will revert to 20 percent. Reversing just one-seventh of the temporary tax cuts for the top 1 percent of taxpayers - those making more than \$300,000 a year - would be enough to avoid the costly cuts to programs which serve the poor, working, and middle classes.

Take Action!

Urge your representative to oppose cutting taxes for the wealthiest investors while vital programs that help the poor, working, and middle classes are cut or eliminated. Click on the “Take Action” link in the upper right corner, or copy and paste the following URL into your Internet browser, and then follow the instructions to send an e-mail to your representative.



Gourmet - March 11 is the date. Come join our Irish dinner celebration. RSVP Jean Cain or JoAnn Casper. You will be sent the menu and recipes.

Nominating Committee for 2006-2007

We are preparing the officers slate for 2006-07. Contact your presidents or the Nominating Committee Members if you are interested in serving our branch.

Thanks to the members who are serving on this committee!

January 2006



The **San Francisco AAUW** will offer two competitive scholarships of \$2,000 each to assist upper division and graduate women who are entering their final year of study in an accredited college or university.

Candidates must live or be attending a university or college within a 100 mile distance of San Francisco.

There is no restriction on the use of the funds.

Completed applications will be due February 28, 2006. If you are interested, or have friends or relatives who may benefit from this scholarship, please check the Silver Jubilee information on the AAUW San Francisco web site at www.aauwsf.org.

Couples Bridge will be held on Saturday, January 21, at 7:30 p.m. at Sandy Hansen's and on Saturday, February 25 at Joyce Atkinson's.



The sister breast cancer study

The Sister Study is the only long-term study of women aged 35 to 74 whose sisters have had breast cancer. It is a national study to learn how environment and genes affect the chances of getting breast cancer. In the next three years, 50,000 women, who do not have breast cancer themselves, will be asked to join the study.

To participate contact www.sisterstudy.org (SISTER STUDY home page) or call (1-877-474-7837). As of Friday, December 2, 2005, 23,774 women have enrolled. The goal is 50,000.

Danville-Alamo AAUW invite you to the

Elvis Lives Event

Saturday January 28

From 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the San Ramon Community Center Terrace Room, 12501 Alcosta Blvd, San Ramon. BYOB (no red wine or coffee). Light snacks will be provided. Dance floor available. Put on your blue suede shoes and rock & roll to the great

sound of Elvis impersonator, Manny Catania. Advance tickets \$20 per person. Mail check prior to January 21 payable to Danville Alamo AAUW to Myrna Matthias. Attendance is limited so sign up early. If not sold out, tickets at the door will be \$25.00.

