

The Rose Branch

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EDITOR
HEATHER DAWN
HDAWN13@COMCAST.NET



AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ADVANCES EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.

AAUW VISION STATEMENT

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.

AAUW VALUE PROMISE

BY JOINING AAUW, WE BELONG TO A COMMUNITY THAT BREAKS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC BARRIERS SO THAT ALL WOMEN HAVE A FAIR CHANCE.

2009 AAUW National Convention
Breaking through Barriers



June 26-28, 2009

Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel
St. Louis, Missouri

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ~ JUNE 26-28, 2009!

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION GO TO: WWW.AAUW.ORG
THEN CLICK ON THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

Is the world passing you by?
Need to learn more about technology? Don't miss the
Cyber & Technology Demonstrations

Want to bring home more guidance for the branch? Attend one of many workshops, including: fund-raising, media training, public policy/advocacy, membership strategies, campus connections, grassroots skill building, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), and negotiating skills for women.

DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AND MEET LILLY LEDBETTER
THE FACE OF PAY EQUITY ~ AAUW'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER!

MEET YOU IN ST. LOUIS

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MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP: AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS (AA) DEGREE OR ITS EQUIVALENT.



AAUW SANTA
ROSA BRANCH BOARD
2009–2010

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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE
"ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!"

As our AAUW 2008/09 year comes to a close, I and your new President, Gerry Carleton, want to wish each of you a wonderful summer break. We hope you find time to relax and rejuvenate, as well as an opportunity to connect with old friends and family. We look forward to the year ahead and with your help and commitment to our Branch, we hope to continue to grow and offer you quality opportunities to enhance your AAUW experience.

We hope you had an opportunity to attend our Annual Meeting on May 9 that featured an outstanding program presented by Cari Coe, EF American Fellowship recipient. A BIG thank you to our Programming VPs, Colleen Wilson and Sue Finan, for bringing this fine program to the membership. Your new Board was also installed and is anxious to take the reigns of leadership this coming year. We wish the new Board much success as the year unfolds beginning in September.

As your past president, I again want to thank the outgoing Board, Appointed Positions, Interest Groups and various committees for their dedication to our Branch. Each of you helped to make this past year a success. I also thank you again for the opportunity to have served as your president these past two years. The President's Pin you presented to me at our Annual Meeting will always be a remembrance of my presidential term with our Branch. I thank each of you for this treasured gift.

Gerry and I again wish you a fun summer ahead and look forward to all of you returning in the fall ready to participate in our many programs and activities

Most Sincerely,
Marianne and Gerry

Feminism is the idea that women should have political, social, sexual, intellectual and economic rights equal to those of men.

PHILANTHROPY UPDATE
AND FUNDS BRIEFING

With this 2008/09 AAUW year coming to a close, a thank you goes out to all our members who have so generously contributed to the three fund-raisers sponsored this year. Through your commitment to our philanthropy efforts, we raised the followed funds:

- The Winter Wonderland Holiday Event raised \$1000 for the Legal Advocacy Fund.
- The Crab Feed Event raised \$2000 for Sonoma State Scholarships.
- The Annual Bridge Luncheon raised \$1100 for our local projects: Tech Trek, The Maria Carrillo Girls' Softball Team, and SSU Scholarships.

AAUW is transitioning to a 21st century organizational structure and although their philanthropy efforts will remain the same for EF and LAF, the terminology for these funds will change to **AAUW Funds**. Additionally, because of the current economic constraints, next year our Santa Rosa Branch's fund-raising efforts will be limited to two major events: the Crab Feed in February and the Bridge Luncheon in the spring.

During these hard times it is our hope that our members will continue their support for our commitment to the AAUW Funds and our local projects.

Marianne Holt

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
MEETING—MAY 26

Economy? Environment? Trends? Health? Global Issues? Local Issues? Sex? (Perhaps we could include that last one with health.....) What subjects are you interested in? The Program Committee is having a planning meeting on Tuesday, May 26, at 11 a.m. at Sue Finan's house. We'll be brainstorming and eating. Please call Sue (540-2211) if you'd like to join us, or e-mail her (suefinan@comcast.net) with suggestions for topics and/or speakers.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

JANE NIELSON
REGINA GEORGE

Some of us met Jane Nielson for the first time in March, when she was an honoree at our “Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet” event. She has long known about AAUW. When her father was studying for his advanced degrees, one of his mentors was a woman professor active in the organization.

It is difficult to fit her many accomplishments into this small space. Jane holds degrees from several universities, including a Ph.D. from Stanford in Geology. Until her retirement in 1997, she was a Senior Research Geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey where she collected and studied rocks from the deep mantle that come up from volcanos, and she made geologic maps, mainly in the Mojave Desert in proposed wilderness areas. After retiring, she taught at Cal State in Hayward, Northern Arizona University, and Pomona College in Claremont.

Later she moved to Sebastopol with her husband, Howard Wilshire, and quickly became involved in the water issues in our area. Jane is currently Chair of the Sebastopol Water Information Group and coauthor of *The American West at Risk* published in 2008 by Oxford University Press. Jane will be a great role model for our Tech Trek girls.

Regina George, our newest member, was recruited by her mother-in-law after attending an AAUW luncheon in Sacramento. Regina, who has lived in Sonoma County for 11 years, holds a B.A. in Anthropology from UC Davis with a focus on archaeology and cultural anthropology. She has freelanced in the field for more than seven years, once filing 18 W-2 forms in one year. Now she is a graduate student at Sonoma

State, studying the business end of anthropology and finishing her Master’s thesis.

Regina and her husband Michael have a 16-month-old daughter they call Caitie Belle. In her limited free time, she enjoys cooking, reading, and making beaded jewelry. She is interested in joining our Global Issues group and would also like to bring other SSU graduate students to some AAUW events.

Arlene Mandell
Membership Assistant



Our Annual Meeting on May 9 was a winner—really a trifecta! We voted for the 2009-2010 Executive Board; enjoyed a wholesome salad potluck lunch; and were enlightened by EF American Fellow Cari Coe’s presentation about the impact of a nationally managed forest in Vietnam on poverty-level people living near or in the forest. Her talk highlighted how natural resources are used and when government actions and laws benefit or hinder local populations. An involved discussion followed with many questions from the audience.

There are many AAUW members to thank for the success of this event. First of all, Terry Howell and her husband, Ed, provided and set-up the projector for our presenter. Gerry Carleton and Linda Trodden contributed lovely roses for the centerpieces and also helped decorate the room. Trina Corson-Graham, Sharon Wright and Dottie Zieber helped with the beverages and dessert. And the attending members tickled our taste buds with their delicious salads. Finally, the clean-up was quickly accomplished with the help of Alice and Ted Crouch,

Terry and Ed Howell, Sue Finan, Linda Trodden and Marianne Holt. Thanks to all of you!

Colleen Wilson & Sue Finan
Program VPs

UPDATE ON “BOOKS FOR JESSICA’S GIRLS PROJECT”

Jessica Wright, the Peace Corps volunteer who is teaching English to 7th grade girls in Steenbok, South Africa, just received our book package and is most enthusiastic. She immediately taught a poetry unit from one of the books, using the Christina Georgina Rossetti poem “Who Has Seen the Wind?” With the assistance of Terry Ehret, former Sonoma County Poet Laureate, I also sent lesson plans for teaching Robert Frost’s “The Mending Wall” and D.H. Lawrence’s “The Snake.”

Jessica ended her email: “So thanks again, a million! I’ll take pictures of me reading to my classes and send them to you along with our thanks... With a full heart, Jessica.”

The total cost of this project, including shipping, was only \$63!

Arlene L. Mandell

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NAMED GIFT HONOREES!

Each year our AAUW Branch makes a significant contribution to the Educational Foundation. This year we gladly contributed \$1500 to EF. Based on our annual contributions, we are able to honor and recognize two branch members who have made significant contributions to our Branch and who were honored as this year’s “Named Gift Honorees.” Congratulations are in order to this year’s recipients, Trina Corson-Graham and Marianne Holt. Thank you to both members for all they have contributed to our Branch.

NEW PROGRAM ENCOURAGES WOMEN TO RUN FOR OFFICE

A new pilot program, "Campaign College," sponsored by AAUW, American University's Women & Politics Institute, and Running Start is working to increase the number of young women running for office on their campuses and eventually in the community, state and nation.

Although 62% of the American University (Washington D.C.) student body is female, only 28% of the members of AU's student government is female. This ratio is similar to other college and university campuses. After Campaign College began in 2006, women's representation in student government increased significantly.

According to an AAUW press release, "Studies show that when girls are involved in student government at the high school and college levels, they are more likely to continue their involvement with politics as adults." This is particularly significant in a country (USA) where women hold only 16.8% of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and 17% of seats in the U.S. Senate.

According to the AAUW press release: "The Women & Politics Institute is one of the leading centers dedicated to research on women and politics and training the next generation of women leaders." The Institute's strategic location in Washington, D.C. is a valuable asset in the program's operation.

"Running Start" is a nonprofit organization which initiates and supports a variety of programs to encourage the full participation of women in politics, particularly as leaders.

In addition to its home base at American University, Campaign College will be traveling to the University of Louisiana and Nyack College in Manhattan. The program kicked off in January at Iowa State University.

Alice Crouch

TECH TREK 2009

The interviews are over and we have a great group of five girls going to Tech Trek Camp this year. There is one girl from each Santa Rosa City Middle School. I won't mention their names because I want to tell you some personal information about them so you can see what a varied group we have chosen.

One girl is a firecracker – very enthusiastic and is maniacal about marine biology. Two girls come from families who don't speak English – so getting the applications and camp paperwork completed was a challenge. One girl had lived in a homeless shelter at one time, but her mom now has stable housing and employment. Lastly, one girl is multi-talented in all subjects – math, science, art and recently was the second place winner in the county spelling bee. It is important that the camp have a variety of girls with all levels of sophistication so there are natural leaders and those who learn to be leaders. It makes for a very dynamic group of 80 thirteen-year-olds.

Thanks to the great committee—Marcy Clausen, Anne Facto, Harriet Palk and Marsha Vas Dupré. They were a true pleasure to work with.

Thank you to all the members who have supported Tech Trek over the years with donations and participation in our fund-raisers. You do make a difference in a girl's life.

Melinda Moir
Tech Trek Coordinator

Photo & text courtesy of Wikipedia



ELIZABETH "BESSIE" COLEMAN
(JANUARY 26, 1892 — APRIL 30, 1926)

The first African American to become an airplane pilot, and the first American of any race or gender to hold an international pilot license. In 1995 she was inducted into the Women in Aviation Hall of Fame.

OUR WELL DESERVING SSU SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR 2009 — 2010

With your generous contributions to the Sonoma State Scholarship Fund, two exceptional candidates, Renee Coverston and Amber Connell, were chosen to each receive a \$1000 scholarship. Below is a brief synopsis of their long-term educational goals. This year, these scholarships were named in memory of two of our past members: The Dorothy McCray Scholarship and The La Rue La Mar Scholarship.

Renee Coverston's long-term career objective is to be a nurse educator, mid-wife, or a family nurse practitioner. She is an avid bicyclist and participated in the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society/Team where she raised over \$3,000 for cancer research. She also is a bone marrow donor. She has made an effort to study medical norms of both Latino and Native American tribes. She volunteered with the Nursing Research Council at Kaiser to learn the importance and process of nursing research.

Amber Connell's long term goal is to grow in the finance department in her current small high-tech communications company or pursue a career as an actuary. She is the first generation college student in her family. She works a full 40 hour week and is also a full time student with a 4.0 grade point average. Her other goal is to prove to her family that she can work full time and keep up her grades at the same time. She has volunteered at the local Rotary Club and homeless food kitchens.

I also would like to thank the dedicated committee that helped to screen and select these worthy candidates: Dorothy White, Sharon Wright, and Joyce Adams.

Linda Trodden
SSU Scholarship Chair

**SPECIAL INTEREST
GROUPS BRANCH
CALENDAR
JUNE & JULY 2009**



MARY JANE McLEOD BETHUNE
(July 10, 1875 – May 18, 1955)
American educator and civil rights leader. Started a school for black students in Daytona Beach, Florida which is now Bethune-Cookman University. She was advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
Photo & text courtesy of Wikipedia

IF AN INTEREST GROUP IS NOT LISTED BELOW, PLEASE CONTACT THE GROUP'S COORDINATOR FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SUMMER MONTHS' SCHEDULE.

June 8 1:30 PM The Monday Afternoon Book Group will meet at the home of Pat Driscoll, 3804 Sedgemoore Dr, 527-9708, to make book selections for the up-coming 2009/10 year. Please bring your book ideas.

June 10 7:30 PM The Evening Book Group will meet at the home of Anne Facto, 4990 Lakepointe Circle, 577-7998, to make book selections for the up-coming 2009/10 year. Please bring your book ideas.

June 12 11:00 AM Romancing the Vine is planning a wonderful tour and tasting at Sausal Winery in Healdsburg. You will have an opportunity to view the oldest vines in the area and drink some great affordable wines. Picnic on the grounds afterwards. The cost is FREE. You could choose to carpool or meet up at the winery, 7370 Highway 128, Healdsburg. Meet there at 11:00 for the start of the tour. Please RSVP **by June 5** to Rachel Zierdt, 824-8852, Rzierdt@gmail.com. Bring your lunch and make a day of it.

June 16 9:30 AM The Tuesday Morning Book Group will meet at the home of Gerry Carleton, 41 Oak Forest, 539-9521, to discuss *End of History/Last Man* by Francis Fukuyama. Delia Nistler will co-host; Gerry Carleton will moderate.

June 17 9:30 AM Global Issues group will discuss Great Decisions topic 5, *Egypt: Key Ally in the Middle East*, at the home of Judy Creek, 4114 Joy Rd. Occidental, 874-9934. Car pool from Linda Trodden's for this West County excursion. Plan on lunch in Occidental after the meeting.

June 18 12:00 noon The Gourmet Lunch group will picnic at the Imagery Winery in Glen Ellen. Carpools will convene at 10:30 AM in the St. Francis Shopping center, Hwy 12 and Calistoga Road. Please contact co-hostesses Geri Clark (571-2081) and Phyllis Lowe (573-1125) for more information and to make a reservation.

June 25 5:30 PM The Working Women's Group will meet at Langley's on the Green, 610 McClelland Dr., Windsor. Please RSVP to Lynn Durrell, 528-3910, billandlynn@comcast.net.

June & July – If you are interested in participating in the Walking-Hiking Group during June or July, please call Phyllis Lowe, 573-1125, for dates and time.

JULY – 2009 BRANCH CALENDAR

July 8 7:30 PM The Evening Book Group will meet at the home of Trina Corson-Graham, 2209 Grace Drive, 526-4982, to discuss *Divisadero* by Michael Ondaatje.

July 13 1:30 PM The Monday Afternoon Book Group will meet at the home of Helga Spizman, 5006 McCloskey, 538-5132, to discuss *The Buffalo Soldiers* by Chris Bohjalian. Jo Schultz will moderate.

(Continued on page 6)

**AAUW INTEREST
GROUPS
2008—2009**

Global Issues ~ Gail Ellestad
546-0562

Gourmet Luncheon ~ Ruth Huck-
lebridge 538-1096

Culture Vultures - Need Organizer

Let's Dine In ~ Need Organizer
566-0514

Public Policy ~ Ginny Benson
869-0303 & Liz Sasek 570-1564

Romancing the Vine ~ Colleen
Wilson 566-0514

Tuesday Morning Book Club
Sylvia Thorne 579-6789

Second Monday Book Group
Sally Fee 539-7348

Wednesday Evening Book Club
Colleen Wilson 566-0514

Walking-Hiking Group ~ Phyllis
Lowe 573-1125

Working Women ~ Lynne Durrell
528-3910

AAUW Santa Rosa has many interest groups ~ something for everyone. Please join, add your talents and make new friends. Any questions please call Interest Sections Coordinator, Terry Howell 542-1135.

Photo courtesy of Wikipedia



MARY JANE McLEOD BETHUNE'S CABIN



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JULY, 2009 BRANCH CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

July 21 9:30 AM The Tuesday Morning Book Group will meet at the home of Sylvia Thorne, Spring Lake Village, 5555 Montgomery Dr, #1207, 579-6789, to make book selections for the coming year. Please come with book ideas.

July 24 6:00 PM The Working Women’s After Hours Group will meet at Paradise Winery, 4545 Thomas Lake Harris Dr., Santa Rosa. Enjoy panoramic views, lively conversation, and a sip of wine. Please bring a dish or appetizer to share and your own place setting while watching the sunset. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Lynn Durrell, 528-3910, billandlynn@comcast.net. For more information on Paradise Wines and Sunsets, visit www.paradiseridgewinery.com.

No July Global Issues Meeting. On August 16 Alice Crouch has invited Global Issues and interested members to attend a forum with the American founder of the first joint Christian-Muslim Ph.D. program worldwide located in Indonesia where it received a government Award of Excellence. The Forum will be held at the Presbyterian Church of the Roses, time TBA, call Alice for details 537-1939.

Photo & text courtesy of Wikipedia



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY RALLY

DHAKA, BANGLADESH, ORGANIZED BY THE NATIONAL WOMEN WORKERS TRADE UNION CENTRE ON MARCH 8, 2005.

SAVE THE DATE

SONOMA COUNTY BOOK FESTIVAL SEPT. 19, 2009

We will be hosting a booth at the Book Festival in Court Square again this year. Save the date and save your books to donate. The festival is a fun way to spend a day getting the word out about AAUW. Details regarding pick up and drop off of donated books will be in the September newsletter. Pat Driscoll

p.driscoll@comcast.net

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

All interested AAUW Santa Rosa members are invited to attend an Environmental Forum, on Saturday, July 25, 2009, sponsored by the Redwood Sierra Club. The featured speaker will be Cecilia Wilcoxon – Eco Green Realtor, who will discuss “Energy Wise Neighbors.” For location and more information please contact Veronica Jacobi.

vjacobi@sonic.net