



## Pleasant Hill Branch

# N.E.W.S.

## Now/Events/Women/Success

Volume 50 Issue 1

September 2007

# You're Invited

to our

## PHAAUW



## September Membership Brunch

**When:** Saturday, September 22, 2007  
10:30 am - 2:00 pm

**Where:** Rolling Green Clubhouse & Pool area  
Brandon off Gregory Lane  
Pleasant Hill, CA



Learn important info about our planned events around our  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year  
Sign up opportunities for your participation in our interest groups  
Renew old and new acquaintances  
Bring a friend/potential member

RSVP by 9//14 to Judy Onopchenko at [bertsmom2@hotmail.com](mailto:bertsmom2@hotmail.com) or 682-8657

## 2007 -2008 Board

### President's Team:

Kay Ernst 937-0526

Marlene Maksel 689-5439

### Vice President Program:

Judy Onopchenko 682-8657

### Vice President's – EF:

Marlene DeLaurenti 934-4171

Sandy Wolfe 228-2633

### Vice President's Membership:

Diane Gartner 798-0798

Shelley Jacobson 930-9941

### Vice President – LAF:

Gayle Garrison 798-7528

### Secretary:

Ish Mendonsa 680-2749

### Treasurer:

Suzanne Salter 935-0861

### Newsletter Editor:

Marilyn Tubbs 939-6220

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### Assoc Help Line:

(800) 326-AAUW

Peggy Fish, Office Coordinator

CA AAUW Office

P.O. Box 160067

Sacramento, CA 95816

Ph: (916) 448-7795

Fax: (916) 448-1729

Email: office@aauw-ca.org

Web Page: aauw-ca.org

### East Bay District Director:

Lorilei Self

Copy deadline for the October  
N.E.W.S. is due on  
Septembeyou r 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please send copy 1 to Marilyn  
Tubbs, 18 Monivea Pl PH or  
email [marclin@comcast.net](mailto:marclin@comcast.net)

### Check out our web site

<http://www.aauw-ph.org>

## PITHY PRESIDENTIAL PROSE

*Co President's Kay Ernst & Marlene Maksel*

### REPORT ON ASSOCIATION CONVENTION ~ PHOENIX, AZ

June 29 through July 2, 2007

Well, I love conventions! I love watching the parliamentary procedures being implemented according to *Robert's Rules of Order*. I even love most of the workshops ~ some better than others. I love meeting women from all over the United States sharing the same goals as mine. I love the special speakers, the chance to meet staff from the D.C. office, and the connectivity in belonging to something bigger than our own Branch.



So, it was a rude awakening when I went to my first workshop entitled "Urgent Call to Members: AAUW's Strategic Process of Reinvigorization." Notice, it didn't say "reorganization", but "reinvigorization." So, I thought, naively, that it was going to tell us how to shake up our branches and increase membership. Wrong! The first words were, "If we don't pass the proposed bylaws, AAUW will die an immediate death. If we pass the proposed bylaws and don't change, AAUW will die a lingering death. If we pass the proposed bylaws and move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the appropriate changes, we will be like a Phoenix rising." One wonders what would have happened to the terminology if we hadn't met in Phoenix!

Declining membership and, therefore, decreasing revenues; vacancies in leadership positions; and irrelevancy nationally were cited as reasons for changing. An inconsistent focus on the issues was another reason ~ with leadership changing every two years (at Association level) each new leader and team brings in new ideas, but doesn't have time to implement those ideas.

The timing of the change was partly because we just celebrated our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, LAF is celebrating 25 years and EF has a 50<sup>th</sup> upcoming. The need, as stated was "we need to celebrate the future and not the past." The bylaws, concerning reorganization, passed UNANIMOUSLY. Beginning in 2009, the Association and EF/LAF (already one entity) will combine into one association with one board of directors. Some of the members of the board of directors (those appointed by the elected board) will come from outside the organization, thereby assuring professionalism and needed expertise.

Every member will have a vote (by email or USPS) in electing a president, a vice president and seven members of the board of directors. That group will appoint six more directors and together they will administer all the programs and policies of the organization.

We have a new pared down, says-it-all Mission Statement: **"AAUW advances the equity of women and girls through advocacy, education, and research."**

That's just the main points for now. Call me, or *email, if you have questions.*

*Marlene*

## Save the dates---More to follow:

- **Saturday, October 6, 2007 –Festa Italiana**  
**Viano Winery in Martinez**
- **Saturday, November 3, 2007**  
**Professional Appraiser (Jewelry, Antiques etc)- Marie Callenders**
- **Saturday, February 9, 2008-**  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Luncheon – CC Country Club**

Be sure to let Bea Ball know any changes of your name, address, email, phone etc for the new directory. (825-3622)

### Interest Group Meetings:

**MORNING BOOKS**. Will meet on Wed Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 am at Ginny Hargrave's, 52 Rolling Green Circle, PH. We will be discussing the River of Doubt by Candace Millard. This is an exciting book about the last, great adventure taken by Teddy Roosevelt-one that almost turns into a disaster. In Oct we will be reading The Memory Keepers' Daughter by Kim Edwards & the choice for Nov is Moloka'i by Alan Brennert. Please phone Ginny to let her know you are planning to attend – 798-2370.

**IN INDELIBLE INK** will meet on **Tue Sept 11**, 10:00 am @ Marlene Maksel's, 583 Odin Dr. PH **Note... one time only date change due to hostess conflict!** Regular meeting time is on second Wed.. Our topic is "The First 18 Years of my Father's Life." & we're inviting the Geneology Section to join us with their family research. Since this is a writing group, if you don't know too much about your father's early years, fiction is more than welcome! Call Marlene @ 689-5439 if you plan to attend.

**MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thurs Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. We usually pick the movie at the beginning of that week, so please call Marlene (689-5439) if you are interested. We always have coffee (sometimes lunch if it is an early movie) after the movie to discuss it.

**EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at Linda Robbins', 2442 Lariat Lane, WC. We will be discussing The Memory Keepers' Daughter- a first novel by Kim Edwards. This book will really make you think about hard choices – what would you do in the same situation? In Oct we will be reading the classic Death Comes to the Archbishop by Willa Cather. Please phone Linda, 932-2351, if you plan to attend.

**NIMBLE FINGERS** will meet on Friday, Sept 21, 10:30 am at Judi Hamberg's, 414 Isabel Dr, Mtz. Bring your handicrafts and enjoy great company.

**BOARD MEETING** will be Sept 12, 2007, 7:15 pm @ Sandy Wolfe's, 156 Elderwood Dr, PH.

**PLAYREADING** will meet Tuesday, Sept 18, 2007, 10:00 am @Suzanne Mesetz's, 1099 Orchard Rd, Laf.. We're planning to write a play about the PHAAUW for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon. Need everyone's input and help.

**FRUGAL FOODIES** will meet Sunday, Sept 23, 2007 at Jitr Thai Restaurant, 115C Alamo Plaza, Alamo.

**EVENING BRIDGE** will meet **Tuesday, Sept 4<sup>th</sup>** @ Elizabeth DiPietro's 7:00 pm.

**Date change due to Labor Day holiday.**

### **!!LOGO FUN!!**

We're looking for members who *wanna be graphic artists or wanna be whatever to come up with an entirely new logo for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Let your imagination loose and see what you can come up with. Sorry! No prizes – but your name will be in lights if yours is the selected logo. Get your ideas to Margi Alkire, anniversary chair, pronto!!!! That means NOW!*



*Enjoying the beginning of our 50<sup>th</sup> year at the Summer Social at Rolling Green Clubhouse*

### **LAF-**

For LAF.....Give me a L....Give me an A....Give me a F...what have you got.....**LAF...Legal Advocacy Fund.** Just what is LAF.? It is a fund to assist women in colleges and universities who have been denied tenure. The LAF fund assist in the court cases, and it is expensive to challenge a decision concerning tenure. With each case we win, it makes it easier for women to advance in the academic world. On our local level, we make a donation each year to LAF. Usually, we have one fund raiser and members and friends make donations. No matter the amount you can contribute, every dollar counts. This year, you will hear me as the "cheerleader" for LAF  
*Gayle Garrison, Chair*

## *Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary PHAAUW*

### **..Remembering PHAAUW.....**

*(Twas the year 1957)*

*The Soviet Union launched their first orbital satellite, Sputnik! But not until after the Pleasant Hill Branch of AAUW began the process of forming a new branch in July. The procedure was followed and by September a set of officers was elected. The branch soon became a vibrant factor in the Pleasant Hill community. We became an official branch on October 19, 1957.*

*The branch was presided over by the first president Mrs. Harold Robinson, and she, with the elected officers, set about a program of recognition by the community. (Remember – all women were addressed by Mrs. and their husband's name in those days!). The monthly programs included a discussion of the "borough system" of government by the county; a film on mental health; a discussion on "How to take an active part in politics":. True to its commitment to education, a program on "The Gifted Child: speaker was Mrs. Ruth Martin, principal of Castro Valle Elementary School.*

*The new branch, true to its emphasis on education, set out to be an active part of the community and became the 31<sup>st</sup> organization to encourage a "yes" vote for school tax increase from 3% to 4%. They launched a Candidates Night for those seeking a position of school Superintendent and for local citizens interested in running for the school board.*

*A membership tea in February of 1958 resulted in a branch membership of 45. Dues were \$8.00 including Association, state & local dues. On May 10<sup>th</sup> of that year an installation luncheon was held to honor the new president Mrs. Franklyn Lloyd, Jr. and other elevated officers at the Nut Bowl in Pleasant Hill.*

*What an outstanding group of young women and aren't we proud and privileged to have such a heritage?*

*Tune in next month and see what the next chapter of PHAAUW has in store!!!!*

**Community Care: Be careful – don't let the wasteful water run while brushing your teeth – we can learn to save before it becomes a demand!!!!**

Ginny Hargrave, Community Chair

**!!!!PHAAUW's New Logo Goes Here Next Month!!!! Will it be yours?**

## **Diablo International Resource Center (DIRC)**

**Fall 2007 Lecture Series**

**Class # 05-0340**

**Tuesdays 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Del Valle Library (new location)**

**Acalanes Adult Center**

**1963 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek, CA 94595**

- September 11 **Immigration Debate and Its Implication for U.S. Mexico Relations** Professor Alex Saragosa, Dept. of Ethnic Studies UC Berkeley
- September 18 **Cuba Today** Leslie Balog, U.S. Global Exchange
- September 25 **Healthcare In America** Rahul K. Parikh, MD, FAAP Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine DSA Chief of Patient Education, Kaiser-Permanente
- October 2 **Global Warming** Professor John Hart, Energy and Resources Group, Division of Ecosystem Sciences, UCB
- October 9 **Biofuel 2007** Elaine Chandler, PhD, Helios Project, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory
- October 16 **The Future of India** Louis Selincourt, (V.P.) (SMAI) of Netapp North America and Consultant on India

For registration information, call (925) 280-3980. For up dated information, check the DIRC website([www.diabloirc.org](http://www.diabloirc.org))

**Sal Compagno, Moderator and Jan Rayl, Coordinator**

**PRE-REGISTRATION RECOMMENDED.**

**Please and make checks payable to "DIRC." Cost: \$36 for six lectures, \$8 per lecture (at door)**

**Note that it is not possible to pay for these lectures with a VISA/Mastercard charge card. Make checks to DIRC (cash accepted). Lectures on topics of current interest followed by a question and answer period.**

### **Sunshine**

As a branch, we try to remember members and former members with cards.

If you know of someone who needs a get well, sympathy, or just thinking of you card, please let me know. I will send one ASAP.

*Gayle Garrison*

**Thanks to our NEWS Supporters**  
**MONEYMOVERS INVESTMENT CLUB**  
will meet on Monday September 10 , 7:00 pm  
@ UBS, 2185 N.California St. Suite 400, WC



### **Entertainment Book Sales**

**Attention.....all members who LOVE to save money.** The **Entertainment books** are now available. What a bargain.....only **\$25.** per Entertainment book.....you can't afford not to buy one. You can use this edition immediately. This year Frugal Foodies has enjoyed many evenings eating at different restaurants with a coupon from the book.

Personally, I have saved LOTS of money, thus upholding my frugal reputation.

Call Gayle Garrison 798-7528 or Janet Sullivan 936-6340 and we will get a book to you ASAP. Profit goes to Legal Advocacy Fund...LAF.

Also, The Tall Thin One...aka Charles...is home most of the time and will gladly take check or cash.

Thanks....hope you all are enjoying this beautiful summer *Gayle Garrison, LAF Chair*

### **BOOK EXCHANGE - LAST CALL**

Don't miss your annual opportunity to join the **BOOK EXCHANGE!** Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2007 for the cost of only one! You buy one book; then each month you receive a new selection from another member of the Exchange.

We have almost filled 2 Exchange lists and are working on a third. Don't miss out! (You can purchase 2 or 3 books to join all the Exchanges and double or triple your reading pleasure!)

Please call Mary Hanlon @ 934-3528 with your selected title and author PRIOR to purchasing your book. Please call by Sunday, September 23rd, since we plan to begin exchanging books on October 1st.

### **Public Policy:**

#### **Sex Discrimination**

The state Public Policy committee is urging graduates of California universities to find out about LAF suits against specific institutions by going to

<http://www.aauw.org/laf/cases/caseinst.cfm>

If your alma mater is involved, please show your concern and write the Chancellor a letter of protest against sex discrimination on your campus.

For your convenience, a model letter follows:

Dear Chancellor,

As a graduate of the {university name}, I can no longer stand silently by while sexual discrimination in hiring, wages, tenure, and basic Title IX requirements continue. It is now the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and high time that the universities in California take proactive stance to stop the insidious and pervasive culture of sexual discrimination.

There have been numerous lawsuits against various UC campuses in the past several years, and it appears to me that the universities would rather waste precious resources in litigation costs that attempt to demonize the victims of discrimination, rather than admit the problems and provide a fair and equitable environment.

Even after the expenses of litigation and judgments against the universities, such as the recent \$4.2million award against UCLA in the case brought by Dr. Janet Conney, it is shocking that the problems remain and more lawsuits will inevitable follow.

Until the administration of the university takes a firmer stance to prevent this type of discrimination, I will not make financial donations to the university, and instead will donate the money I would have given to my alma mater to the American Association of University Women's Legal Advocacy Fund, to provide material support to those who are forced to take legal action in response to sexual discrimination at the university.

Furthermore, I intend to contact everyone I know who is a graduate of any of the state university campuses and encourage them to do the same until I see some clear signs that those responsible for discriminatory practices are fired and the university shows a zero-tolerance policy for this behavior.

Sincerely,

*Submitted by Shirlee Thompson, Public Policy Chair*

### **FAIR OAKS ELEMENTARY** **NEEDS VOLUNTEERS...**

Tutoring, student store, SAM program & more—  
Contact Mary McGhee 284-4974 or Marilyn  
Tubbs 939-6220 for info

# September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Celebrating our 50th Anniversary</i>						<i>Pleasant Hill AAUW</i>
						1
2	3	4 Evening Bridge 7:00 pm Elizabeth DiPietro's	5 AM Books 10:00 am Ginny Hargrave's	6	7	8
9	10	11 In Indelible Ink 10:00 am @ Marlene Maksel's (Note: Date change)	12 Board Meeting 7:15 pm @ Sandy Wolfe's	13	14	15
16	17	18 Playreading 10 am @ Suzanne Mesetz's	19 Chamber Mixer @ 5:00 pm (Call Ginny Hargrave for info)	20	21	22 Fall Membership Brunch 10:30am Rolling Hills Club House
23 Frugal Foodies 6:00 pm @ Jitr Thai Restaurant 115C Alamo Plaza	24 Evening Books 7pm @ Linda Robbins'	25 50th Anniversary Committee mtg 9:30 am @ Margi Alkire's	26	27 Matinee Idol (Call Marlene M)	28 Nimble Fingers 10:30 am @ Judi Hamberg's	29
30	<b>Genealogy Group: Save the date - Saturday, October 20, 2007-7:30 am - 4:30 pm</b> <b>Genealogy Workshop @ the LDS Church, 3700 Concord Blvd. Concord. \$25.00/person</b> <b>(35 interest sections to choose from) Call Kay Ernst for application.</b>					

**Membership – AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. AAUW is open to all graduates of two year accredited colleges with AA degrees and/or accredited four year colleges or universities. In principle and practice AAUW values and supports diversity. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.**