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the Shareline

May 2014



Hayward/Castro Valley Branch
www.hcv-ca.aauw.net

2013-2014 Board

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DARK MONEY IN POLITICS



Are you frustrated with the role of big money in politics? Do you believe democracy belongs to ALL people not just rich people or corporations defined as people?

Join the League of Women Voters of Eden Area and the Associated Students, Inc. at Cal State University East Bay on May 12 from 6-8pm for a forum on "Dark Money in Politics." The forum will be held at CSUEB, student union building in the multi-purpose room.

The keynote speaker is the newly appointed Vice Chair of the Federal Elections Commission (FEC), Ann Ravel. She was formerly Chair of the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). A representative from California's Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) will also speak.

A unique feature of this forum includes a presentation by remote means by the founders of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream—Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield. Their stand on "Dark Money in Politics" can be found on www.stampstampede.org. - a grassroots movement that stamps money out of politics one stamp at a time on your dollar bills. "Are you ready to restore democracy to people?" is Ben and Jerry's callout to the public.

The jobs of the FEC and the FPPC have been made more difficult by recent Supreme Court's decisions on *Citizens United* and the *McCutcheon* case. One declared that corporations are "people" and can set up and secretly fund Political Action Committees (PACs) to support or oppose candidates and issues. The McCutcheon case struck down aggregate limits on campaign contributions.

Elizabeth MacNamara, president of the U.S. League of Women Voters said, "In the end, the only reliable response to a flood of money in our elections is a flood of voters at the polls, each voter armed with the kind of reliable, unbiased information that the League provides."

The forum is free, but the League requests rsvps and/or questions to lwvea@aol.com to ensure space and refreshments are available.

The PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When your Scholarship Committee, made up of Penny Peck, Patty Diaz and Liz Bathgate interviewed the six young women at Chabot College for the special AAUW Leadership Conference in Maryland, we had some very qualified applicants who presented themselves very well to the committee. We chose the present Chabot College Student Body President, Erika Cortez and another very industrious young woman Ophelia Nguyen to be our awardees.



Erika Cortez is a 22 year old young woman who has held a number of leadership positions starting in middle school. She told us in her essay that she never realized she could make an impact in other people's lives, but after becoming President of her student body she realized that the student body as an entity has a voice. She has spent her time educating her fellow students about their rights as a community college student. She is in the process of transferring to a four year University. Her goal is to graduate with a Bachelors in Criminal justice and to Minor in Chicano

Studies. After that she intends to apply to Law School. This AAUW Leadership Conference will be a great addition to her growing as a woman and as a leader in her community.

Ophelia Nguyen is a 20 year old who found her leadership potential in high school and has carried it over to being a tutor on campus. She works 32 hours a week at a shoe store in Southland selling shoes and helping to manage the store. She is carrying 17 units and will complete her community college work this semester. At Chabot she has been majoring in Social Work with a minor in Communications Studies. She will receive her Early Childhood Development permit from the Board in Sacramento so she can become a Pre-School teacher assistant. In the fall she will be attending a four year State University to pursue her love of Social Work. She is a very perky young lady who has a positive outlook and commitment to a dream for her future.

Liz

MEMBER NEWS

If you have news about a member who needs to be congratulated on a special occasion or accomplishment, who needs to be encouraged during illness or difficult time, or to be reminded we are here for him/her, please contact your corresponding secretary Barbara Jones at 538.0516 or by email at bb_jones@pacbell.net. Let's let our friends know we care.

Let's let our friends know we care.



MEMBERSHIP

Mary Ashby is once again enjoying good health and feeling fine after recent surgery for colon cancer. This is the best news possible, Mary!

Her many friends hope to hear Kathy Colemere is recovering smoothly and quickly following recent hip surgery.

Suzanne Barba a member of our branch and a stalwart in the League has suffered a stroke and is home recuperating. Cards and emails would be appreciated.

From Linda Myer's Sessions - AAUW Funds: Get the Facts and Title IX – the Big Picture.

AAUW Funds: Get the Facts

The panel discussed briefly all the AAUW funds, but focused on the Leadership Programs Fund. This is the fund that trains and encourages campus women to run for student government and recognize the possibility of turning that experience into broader political activity after graduation. Mostly the discussion was about the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, a 3 day conference that allows student leaders from around the nation to meet and share their experiences and ideas. I was left with the feeling that AAUW sees this conference as a potential game-changer when it comes to the future leaders of the nation and of AAUW.

Title IX – the Big Picture

This was both discouraging and encouraging. It seems that in all the time that Title IX has been around (42 years and counting) not a single institution has ever lost federal funds for failure to comply with Title IX. The encouraging news is that thanks to Title IX, there has been improvement in the way girls are treated in school athletics. However, Title IX is not just about school sports; it also addresses sexual harassment (for both girls and boys) and discrimination against pregnant and parenting teens in school. California AAUW as part of the California Title IX Coalition is assessing high schools and their compliance with Title IX. They are looking for volunteers willing to visit the local high school and fill out a checklist that can be downloaded at www.ccrwf.org. There will be a legislative hearing in Sacramento about the findings of all the high school reviews done statewide.

From Helen Carr and Linda Myers

I was again looking forward to another AAUW-CA convention and was not disappointed. From start to finish it was nonstop – panel discussions, workshops, business meetings. And, of course, dessert with every meal (except breakfast)

Welcoming us to Los Angeles was Amy Wakeland Garcetti, wife of current Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti. In her address, Ms. Garcetti stressed the importance of education and of public service. She described her struggle to achieve an education; how she worked nights and attended school in the daytime. As a result of her dedication, she attended graduate school at Oxford where she was a Rhodes Scholar.

Also available was online voting for this year's slate of candidates. More than half the attendees voted and said they would take the experience back home to help the branch members cast their ballots.

A panel which included Kirby Dick, director of *The Invisible War* and Sarah Albertson spoke at the Funds Luncheon. Ms. Albertson is one of the plaintiffs now involved in litigation that accuses the Defense Department of a systemic failure to prevent assaults in the military. Her account to the convention attendees described the horror she was subject attests to her bravery in sharing her story with us. This was an enlightening and thought provoking session.

Through this convention experience, we will be able to bring more information and energy to our branches.

DUES INFORMATION:

This year I will be having our National AAUW send you an invoice via email. This will give you instructions on how to pay your dues electronically. Some of you have done it in the past and it saves the Membership Chair a lot of work if you will use this system. Please be aware the \$46 of your dues are tax deductible since our National AAUW is a 501-c3 organization. Ursula Batz will be the new Membership Chair starting in June.

League of Women Voters Eden Area
Contact: Jennifer Ong, LWVEA President
drjemmiferong@gmail.com 510-521-0551

AAUW STATE CONVENTION

Helene and Linda

The State Convention this year was held at the LAX Marriott on April 11-13. I went down early on Friday so I could attend the President's Brunch. The theme for the meeting was E3=Engage, Educate, Empower...a Formula for Success. The power of branches partnerships, and coalitions to make a difference in the lives of women and girls was recognized and celebrated throughout the weekend.

I had the opportunity of meeting many other branch leaders and had the chance to see what was going on in their branches. It is amazing to me what women can do for their communities when they get together as an AAUW branch and set goals for their future. Many branches such as Livermore-Dublin-Pleasanton host Stem workshops for girls in their community by holding a full day of science and technology classes at Las Positas College. They draw girls from many schools and work in collaboration with the Livermore Lab and Sandia. Since Stem is so vital to our future, it was wonderful to see many communities doing programs like this for their junior and senior high girls.

We heard from State Senator Holly Mitchell who advocates legislative policy to meet the needs of working families by improving the quality and accessibility of the state's health and education systems. She focuses on job creation and balancing business, human and environmental needs to expand economic opportunity while protecting natural resources.

Our National President Patricia Ho was there to greet us and let us know what Washington is doing to support our efforts here in our state. There were four other members of the staff from Washington at the convention to listen to our questions and needs and offer support and follow up for our branches.

The movie "The Invisible War" was shown on Friday afternoon. This is the same movie we will show on April 29th. Our AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund is helping sponsor a number of the women in the movie who are suing the government for their lack of response to their needs when they were sexually assaulted. It is a far bigger problem than any of us realize because so few report the assault for fear of being forced out of the service or made to look like it was their fault. Today, a female soldier in combat zones is more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire.

I attended two workshops on Membership, one on Community Engagement + Branch Empowerment Strategies=Diversifying Membership and the other on Retention Strategies=Empowering Branches. Both of them brought to mind the fact that I have not been doing enough to get new members involved in the branch. We need more new younger members who can carry on the branch as its membership ages. As a branch we are having a hard time encouraging newer members to become involved in the board positions. Being on the board is not a hard job, rather a fulfilling job of encouraging each member to see that our group continues.

DRAMA Reading...

We will meet on April 2nd at 7pm at Liz Bathgate's home. Everyone is welcome to come read *The Robin Hood Caper* by Fred Carmichael. He has taken an old plot, rob from the rich and give to the poor, but not even Robin Hood would recognize the hilarious modern slant given to it. Four old people meet to report on their good works in the "Charities Anonymous Club" at the home of Flora Langley's nephew, a small town journalist in danger of losing his newspaper to a grafting Mayor.

Do you have an article you would like included in Shareline? Perhaps information about an event, FAQs about an AAUW sponsored program or have ideas for the newsletter? Please submit your articles the 20th of the month by sending to Rebecca Bell at Rebecca_AAUW@yahoo.com.

Dee Donaldson's Home
19286 Parkview Rd.
Castro Valley, CA

RSVP- to Dee Donaldson
Tel# 510-538-3415

Dee will assist you in deciding what food item to bring.

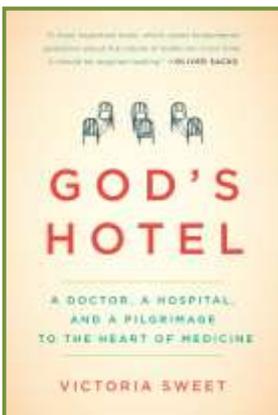


Please bring 5 (\$1) bills. It is easier to make change that way.

Easy directions- To get to Dee Donaldson's home coming from Castro Valley Blvd. turn North on Center St. and continue to Edwards and turn right. Go one long block and turn left on Gliddon. Go two short blocks and turn right on Rollinghills Way. Dee's house is at the top of the long block--pretty sky blue color--19286 Parkview Rd.

Look forward to seeing you at bunco!!

BOOK CLUB



Victoria Sweet's vital account of the history of San Francisco's Laguna Honda and her years as a physician there, *God's Hotel*, will be discussed at the Book Group's May meeting on Monday afternoon, May 19th. We'll meet at Berna Neumiller's Castro Valley home, 21407 Tanglewood Drive, from 2-4 p.m. Ruth Rymer will facilitate the discussion. Refreshments will be served.

Looking ahead, the final meeting of the group will be on Monday, June 16th, at Dee Donaldson's home where we'll discuss *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai. Mathilde Schmidt will facilitate the discussion.

The book group welcomes all branch members to join in an afternoon of good books, wonderful friends, stimulating conversations, and delicious refreshments. Please join us.