

A A U W

Hayward/Castro Valley

MARCH 2009

The Shareline



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DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 27 Bunco Party & Potluck Dinner
- March 4 Drama Reading Group
5 *A Powerful Noise* Documentary
8 International Women's Day
10 Monthly Board Meeting
11 Author event with Lalita Tademy
16 Book Review Group
27 Armchair Travel Program
- April 3 Health Care Forum
18 Membership meeting: Bylaw changes

A POWERFUL NOISE

MARCH 5TH

IN SELECT THEATRES NATIONWIDE
FOR ONE NIGHT

8pm (tape delayed)

Century Theatre ♦ 1069 B Street, Hayward

\$15.00 adults & \$12.50 kids

Purchase ahead of time at www.fandango.com

To celebrate International Women's Day and highlight the important role that women play in bringing lasting solutions to global poverty, Fathom, CARE and ONE present a one-night event featuring the acclaimed

documentary *A Powerful Noise*, followed by a town hall discussion with leading humanitarian experts and activists.

Broadcast live from New York City, Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State and Principal of The Albright Group LLC, will join the live panel. The panel also will include CARE president and CEO Dr. Helene Gayle; CARE advocate for maternal health and contributing editor for *Marie Claire* Christy Turlington Burns; and

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, *New York Times* columnist, and acclaimed author Nicholas Kristof.

Executive produced by Sheila C. Johnson, *A Powerful Noise* takes you inside the lives of three women from different countries to witness their daily efforts to fight HIV/AIDS, champion girls' education, and unite ethnically divided communities.

A Powerful Noise is a meditation on the inherent potential of women to change the world.

Celebrate International Women's Day

The history of International Women's Day is a history of taking action. The event originated in 1908 when women garment makers in New York demonstrated to demand better working conditions. They worked in appalling conditions, earned half of men's wages, died prematurely from poor health and didn't have the right to vote.

In 1910 an international conference of women resolved that each year a day should be set aside to press for women's demands. Since then International Women's Day (IWD) has been celebrated around the world each year on March 8. From its inception International Women's Day has stood for equality between women and men.

So IWD is about remembering the battles long fought to build a society that is just and fair to all its members a society in which diversity, tolerance, safety, social justice and equality between women and men is a given. And it's about celebrating what women have done, are doing, and can do.

DRAMA READING GROUP

March 4th ♦ 7 pm ♦ 22112 Queen St ♦ Castro Valley

Liz Bathgate: 510-581-0461

This month we will be reading from *Seven Short Farces* by Anton Chekhov, the great Russian short-story writer and playwright. Being fond of vaudevilles and French farces, Chekhov wrote some hilarious one-act plays. This collection, translated by Paul Schmidt, includes *The Bear*, *A Reluctant Tragic Hero*, *Swan Song*, *The Proposal*, *The Dangers of Tobacco*, *The Festivities*, and *The Wedding Reception*. One reviewer wrote, "These hilarious shorts showcase exactly how brainless people can be, with men and women at their nonsensical best." Each farce has a different number of characters in a totally new situation. There are lots of comedies creating much fun in the reading. Come join us for an evening of fun!

Branch Events with the Hayward Public Library

Barbara Jones

"The event with Gail Tsukiyama was a truly special occasion, which wouldn't have been possible without the crucial support of the AAUW. And Gail delivered!" These are the enthusiastic words of Sally Thomas, Adult Services Librarian at the Hayward Public Library. "I loved the energy she generated and was very pleased we could offer this experience to our local community."

The special event on February 3rd brought together between 115-120 people, the largest adult attendance at a program in the library's history. Ms. Tsukiyama spoke about her numerous novels, explained her writing process and her inspiration from her unique family history (her mother is from Hong Kong, her father is Japanese from Hawaii). The question and answer exchange was lively and interesting. The Book Shop had the author's novels available for purchase and they sold out quickly. It was truly a special evening for all who attended.

A follow up to this program of branch co-sponsorship with the Hayward Public Library will be on March 11, with author Lalita Tademy. Branch members are once again asked to bring dessert goodies for the program. The library will provide coffee and tea.

**In person at the Hayward Public Library
Best-selling author & Oprah Book Club Choice
LALITA TADEMY**

Wednesday ♦ MARCH 11 ♦ 6:00 pm

835 C Street, Hayward

In conjunction with the Hayward Big Read of *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines, the Hayward Public Library is pleased to host Lalita Tademy, author of two historical novels — *Cane River* and *Red River* — based on the author's search of her family's past in Louisiana. *Cane River* is an epic novel that brings to life four generations of African-American women. Beginning with Tademy's great-great-great-grandmother, Elisabeth, Tademy presents a saga that sweeps from the early days of slavery through the Civil War and into a pre-Civil Rights South. *Cane River* was a 2001 Oprah book club selection.

The author will give a talk about her life and work. Following her talk, copies of both novels will be on sale and the author will be available to sign books.

BOOK REVIEW GROUP

MARCH 16 ♦ 2 -4 PM ♦ 19286 Parkview Rd, CV

Dee Donaldson: 510 - 538 - 3415

Olive Riley-Steward will review Amy Tan's classic novel *The Bonesetter's Daughter*. Published in 2001, it is Amy Tan 's fourth novel.

Our group has selected the best selling novel *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows to be discussed at our April 20th meeting. All members will read the novel and then share our ideas and insights. Berna Neumiller will lead the discussion.

All AAUW members are invited to join us at our meetings. If you like books, like ideas, and enjoy people and like-minded friends for an afternoon of discussion and friendship, please come. Refreshments are served.

Job Discrimination Cases Have Tough Go in Court

According to a study, employees who bring discrimination claims against their employers lose their cases at a higher rate and receive less time in federal court than other types of plaintiffs. The study, to be published in Harvard Law and Policy Review later this month, shows that federal plaintiffs won a mere 15 percent of job discrimination cases from 1979-2006; in all other criminal cases, the win rate for plaintiffs was 51 percent. In addition, the number of job discrimination claims filed in federal court fell by 40 percent from 1999-2007. This follows on a report issued last year by the Federal Judicial Center which found that 12.5 percent of employment-discrimination cases were terminated at the summary judgment phase, before any trial could take place. By contrast, the percentages were much lower for other types of civil suits. According to one plaintiffs' attorney quoted in a [Wall Street Journal](#) article about these troubling trends, "We will no longer take individual employment-discrimination cases, because there's such a high likelihood of losing."

AAUW has long championed the right of employees to be able to have their day in court when discriminated against on the job. The article cites the case of Lilly Ledbetter, whose successful job discrimination suit over Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. was overturned by the Supreme Court in 2007. Fortunately, AAUW led the successful fight to enact the [Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act](#), which was signed by President Obama last month and overturned that ill-advised decision. The article further cites the Vicky Crawford, a Tennessee woman who was fired from her job for cooperating with an internal sexual harassment investigation against a fellow employee. That case also ruled the Supreme Court, and AAUW signed an [amicus brief](#) supporting Ms. Crawford's position. In a unanimous vote, the Supreme Court ruled that workers cannot be fired or otherwise retaliated against for cooperating with internal sexual harassment investigations that arise under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. For more information, see the AAUW [Legal Advocacy Fund](#) page.

Ursula Batz, LAF VP

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL RETURNS

MARCH 27 ♦ 7pm ♦ BAYWOOD COURT

21966 DELORES, CASTRO VALLEY

H/CV member Judy Harrison will share with us her early days as a Peace Corps Volunteer teacher in Sierra Leone, West Africa. She was in the fourth group to go to this country in 1963, so it will be a bit of Peace Corps history.

Since her days in the Peace Corps, Judy had made it her life's goal to to circumnavigate the globe by the time she was 25 (she did by the time she was 26!) and to see as much of the world as she can. She has traveled extensively in Europe, Africa, Asia, South America, and the Middle East. She taught in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for 2 years and took advantage of the posting to travel to India, Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey. While in Sierra Leone she had a chance to visit South Africa and see first hand the horrors of apartheid. She has camped with the Donakils of the Somali desert, swum with marine iguanas in the Galapagos, and played with baby gorillas in Rwanda.

At this writing, Judy is traveling in Vietnam and Cambodia and will relate these travels with pictures and narrative. There will be time for refreshments and socializing after the talk. This is a free event.

For more information or carpooling needs, please call Liz Bathgate at 581-0461

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

This year our State AAUW started a new system of forming a board and then having them elect officers from their ranks. Since we cannot find anyone willing to take on the job of President or President Elect, we may find ourselves using this technique to find our board head. Thus far, our Nominating Committee, made up of Liz Bathgate, Ruth Leth, Helene Carr, Barbara Jones, and Evelyn Gertler have come up with the following women who are willing to serve on the board:

Program: Helene Carr; Treasurer: Peggy Robinson; Membership: Erica Campisi; Educational Foundation: Dee Donaldson; Legal Advocacy Fund: Ursula Batz; Corresponding Secretary: Barbara Jones; Recording Secretary: Liz Bathgate.

The Nominating Committee decided that we would offer a position of Member-at-Large to people interested in helping with the board and events for next year. To date we have Ruth Leth, Danielle Stonelake and Mary Krieg who have expressed interest in these positions.

We are always open to having more Member-at-Large people on our board. If you are interested in the workings of the branch and would like to serve in this capacity, let me know. We meet as a board once a month on the second Tuesday evening at 6:30pm.

Liz Bathgate: 510-581-0461 ♦ lbbathgate@worldnet.att.net

Highlights of Proposed AAUW Bylaws

by Sandy Kirkpatrick,

AAUW-CA Parliamentarian & AAUW Bylaws Committee Member

AAUW's strategic planning process began in 2005, with a restructuring approved unanimously at the 2007 AAUW Convention. To complete this restructuring, newly revised bylaws will be presented for approval at the 2009 AAUW Convention at St. Louis.

These bylaws:

- streamline the current bylaws and move administrative details to policies and procedures;
- provide more flexibility on all levels (branch, state, and national); and
- provide more avenues for all members to participate in the organization, in particular giving every member a vote on national business.

What will NOT change:

- mission-based activities and programming, including the work of the Educational Foundation, Legal Advocacy Fund, and Leadership Training Institute;
- public policy advocacy through the newly named "AAUW Action Fund;" and
- the unique mission and grassroots strength of AAUW.

Summary of Major Changes:

1. **ONE MEMBER-ONE VOTE.** Instead of using a delegate system, every member will have a vote. Members who cannot attend meetings and vote in person will be able to vote by all methods approved by the corporate code of the District of Columbia and the Board (i.e., mail, phone, FAX or electronically).

2. **ONE BOARD.** AAUW and EF boards are merged into one board with authority over all aspects of AAUW activity, including:

- delivery of the mission through programs and policies;
- setting membership dues (part of financial administration oversight);
- appointment of the directors of the AAUW Action Fund, for voter education and related political activities; and
- appointment and oversight of AAUW committees and task forces, including determining the process for the awarding of fellowships and grants.

3. **MEMBERSHIP OPEN.** Membership is open to any individual supportive of the mission, without regard to college degree status, and to partner members. Partner membership broadens the current college/university membership category to include the possibility of other institutions or organizations that meet the criteria. Open individual membership provides an equal opportunity for all to join, in recognition that one does not need to have educational credentials to work for women's education.

4. **STRUCTURAL FLEXIBILITY.** Branches and states will not be required to make any changes if their current structure works well for them. However, the new bylaws mandate only an administrative and financial contact person from each branch/state, allowing the branches and states to create the structure and leadership positions that make the best use of their resources to fulfill AAUW mission.

The full bylaws, with rationale for each article is published on the AAUW website, along with a detailed list of frequently asked questions, visit:

http://aauw.org/About/bylaws/index.cfm?cs_LoginTime=225332

(Membership number is required to login to this webpage)

For more information about the structural changes to AAUW, read the AAUW Briefing #18:

http://www.aauw.org/member_center/briefings/briefingRestructure_0210_09.cfm

League of Women Voters, Eden Area & AAUW, Local Chapter

HEALTH CARE FORUM: "The State of Health Care in Alameda County"

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009 + NOON TO 2 P.M.

Keynote Speaker

David Kears, Director of Alameda County Health Care Services

Improving the Health Care System is a priority at the national, state and local level. Mr. Kears will give us a comparison of health care policies at each level as well as the state of health care in Alameda County.

PLACE: San Lorenzo Village Association Hall. 377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo

COST: \$10 (in advance) which includes lunch. There will be no cost for those who come just for the program, without lunch.

QUESTIONS? Call Suzanne at 510.538.9678 or email suzbarba@comcast.net.

EASE RETURN THIS RESERVATION FORM IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND HEALTH CARE FORUM
& LUNCHEON FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009 NOON - 2 P.M.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Guests: _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Mail RSVP form and check made out to LWVEA

Send to LWVEA Treasurer, P. O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Deadline for RSVP is Friday, March 27

MEMBER NEWS

If you have news about a member who should be congratulated on a special accomplishment or who needs encouragement during a time of need, please contact me, your corresponding secretary. Let's let our friends know how much we care.

Barbara Jones: 510-538-0516 ♦ bb_jones@pacbell.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB

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NATIONAL

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STATE

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