



MONTEREY PENINSULA MESSENGER

Volume 58 Issue 1

Monterey Peninsula Branch

Sept-Oct 2010

September Branch Meeting

September 19th, 2:00 PM Matinee

Circle Theater, Carmel

“The Country Wife”

We will again gather for an afternoon of theater entertainment! “The Country Wife” follows notorious ladies man, Harry Horner, and his ruthless scheme for rampant seduction. By spreading the rumor of his own impotence, he is able to gain entry to the so-called "virtuous" ladies of society who are all too willing to join in the fun! Banned from the stage for almost 200 years, this scandalous satire is as potent today as it was in 1676.

20 seats will be reserved for AAUW. First come, first served! Please mail your check made out to Pacific Repertory Theater to:

Pat Gotch, 1114 Kenet Place, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

October Branch Meeting

Hastings Natural History Reserve

October 28th- 9:00AM-2:00PM

This field trip is back by popular demand. Some of our members, participating in a Romancing the Coast activity, visited the Reserve last April. Some have voiced a desire to return for more!

Hastings NH Reserve was established in 1937 as a field station of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of UC Berkeley for advanced research and teaching in field biology. Dr. Mark Stromberg, the resident director, will be our guide in the field, as well as in the classroom, for an interesting, educational day in Upper Carmel Valley.

We will carpool at **8:00 AM** from the Crossroads parking lot (Old Black Bear Diner area), and proceed from there. Bring a bag lunch!

Reservation Deadline: Oct. 22 Pat Gotch, patgotch@yahoo.com or 375-9865 (Unavailable Sept. 29 - Oct. 20) or Cathy Rossing, little54cat@aol.com or 372-8858

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AAUW's Mission
Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research..

AAUW's 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..

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Dear AAUW-MPB Members:

We begin our co-presidency with great respect for our organization. AAUW was founded in 1881 and our local AAUW Monterey Peninsula Branch in 1926. Our founders were forward thinking women who realized that having a college education wasn't enough to ensure equity for women in the workplace and in the community. AAUW has made progress over the decades in the areas of Public Policy, Legal Advocacy and Community Action. While significant strides have been made, we still face barriers that interfere with solidifying our place in the 21st Century.

We follow the legacy of an impressive cadre of women who have led us closer to a culture in which we, as women, can achieve our full potential—educationally, socially, economically and politically. In particular, we are grateful to Sharyn Siebert, our past president, for her inspirational leadership as she guided our branch the past two years. She has paved the way for us with her ideas and high standards and her pure grit and determination.

Our 2010-2011 agenda exemplifies our resolve to carry on the quest for equity for ourselves and those who follow in our footsteps, including our daughters, daughters-in-law, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and the young women in our lives. We are planning a schedule of monthly programs that reflect our commitment to the mission of AAUW. We will continue to support our Local Scholarship Program to assist students to achieve their college and university goals, and we will continue to support our Tech Trek Program to provide middle school students with a week-long summer math and science experience at Stanford University.

Unfortunately, we have bad news. Our local branch is following the national trend of a declining membership. We ask each of you to encourage women in your professional, business and social networks to join AAUW. Indeed, we need your help.

We also have good news. We promise to have fun along the way! In addition to our monthly program meetings, we offer a variety of interest groups, such as book groups, Great Decisions, Gourmet Dinners, Romancing the Coast and social bridge. Please become involved in an activity you enjoy. Of course, new ideas for interest groups are always welcome.

We are pleased to have a wonderful group of AAUW-MPB members serving on our Board of Directors. These women have made a significant commitment of time and energy, and we are grateful.

We also thank each of our AAUW-MPB members for your ongoing support and involvement with AAUW. We anticipate an exciting year; we invite each of you to help us make a difference.

Susan Murphy
Sally Hekkers
 Co-Presidents

Contact Information:

Susan, 622-9289, murphfam@redshift.com
 Sally, 455-2852, swhekkers@sbcglobal.net

BOARD MEETINGS

Sept 3, Oct 7, 3 PM

Monterey City Library

INTEREST GROUPS

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Coordinator: Carolyn Smith
(stacaro@aol.com)

Tuesday, Sept 14, at 2 PM
Book: *Olive Kitteridge*, by Elizabeth Strout
At the home of Sally Hekkers
RSVP: swhekkers@sbcglobal.net

Tuesday, Oct 12, at 2 PM
Book: *The Lacuna*, by Barbara Kingsolver
At the home of Judy Ritchie
RSVP: judy_ritchie@comcast.net

EVENING BOOK GROUP

Coordinator: Kathleen Wall
(wallplus@aol.com)

Sept 16, at 7:00 PM
Book: *Imperfect Birds*, by Anne Lamott
Hostess: Christy Yarr, 657-4197
Leader: Mary Conway

Oct 21, at 7:00 PM
Book: *South of Broad*, by Pat Conroy
Hostess: Marge Simmons, 622-9640
Leader: Christy Yarr

COUPLES GOURMET

New Coordinator: Sharyn Siebert
(sharynsiebert@comcast.net)

We are organized and ready to roll. But if anyone wants to be added to the sub list, we would welcome that as we have 2 floating sub positions this year!

ROMANCING THE COAST

Coordinator: Jan Smyth
(janzeek@hotmail.com)

The group meets to explore some event or place on the Peninsula, usually the fourth or last Friday of the month. Lunch at a nearby restaurant often precedes or follows the meeting. All members and friends are welcome to attend the events. This is a great way to see old friends and meet new ones while learning more about our unique area. If you'd like to be on the e-mail contact list for additions or last minute changes and reminders, e-mail janzeek@hotmail.com

Friday, October 1, 11:30 AM

Planning Meeting

280 Via Paraiso, Monterey.

Come join others to plan our events for the coming year. Bring your ideas and a sandwich or salad to share with others. Drinks and cookies provided.
RSVP: janzeek@hotmail.com

October 28 Meeting

9:00 a.m.

We'll join the branch meeting for a return trip to Hasting Natural History Reserve in Carmel Valley. Members who attended, wanted to go back and learn more so this is the chance for everyone to enjoy the Reserve. Check the General Meeting for instructions.

RSVP patgotch@yahoo.com

SOCIAL BRIDGE

Coordinator: Ann Donaldson
ann@wjdonaldson.com

If you are interested in playing bridge, email or call Ann and give days and times that you are available to play.



PUBLIC POLICY

Social Security is one of our country's most successful anti-poverty programs, providing benefits to children, disabled workers, surviving spouses, and retirees. Without Social Security more than half of older women would fall into poverty. Without it more than two-thirds of unmarried women would be living below the poverty line. Social Security also supports more children than Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), also known as welfare.

The National Commission on Fiscal and Financial Reform, was created in February, however, AAUW is worried that members of the Commission view cuts to Social Security as a potential way to cut the deficit. Social Security legally cannot borrow money and therefore does not contribute to the deficit and cutting benefits will not reduce the deficit. The Social Security program currently has a surplus of over \$2.5 trillion and is expected to be able to pay full benefits for another quarter of a century, giving Congress ample time to make adjustments to future benefits during the normal legislative process.

The Commission, both Republican and Democrat, will make recommendations to Congress for balancing the budget and for related fiscal issues by December 1.

These recommendations could fast-track cuts to Social Security, including monthly benefits, privatizing accounts, and raising the retirement age -- a benefit cut that places the greatest hardship on older Americans.

TAKE ACTION!

Send a message to members of the Commission today and let them know that cutting Social Security is unacceptable.

Shirley Jaster
Public Policy Chair

RECOGNIZING AAUW SERVICE FOR LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Who knew in May when they volunteered to work on the AAUW Team for Democracy that two more elections would be called this summer... and only those trained in the May cycle would be qualified to serve! The following volunteers staffed the June 6 election and then worked to make sure that we were well-represented at the June 22 and August 17 elections: Jack and Joann Branson, Manus and Ruthann Donahue, Sally Hekkers, Shirley Jaster, Joan Kilianny, Phyllis Mosher, Susan Murphy, Carolyn Smith, Betty Sproule, Kathleen Stacey, and Christy Yarr. Please say a special thanks if you see these volunteers for the \$2400 their service has brought to the Local Scholarship Fund. Betty Van Meter will be calling soon for November 2 staff. Consider volunteering three-four hours to give these loyal members and spouses a rest.

2010/2011 Monterey Peninsula AAUW Board:

Co-Presidents: Sally Hekkers, Susan Murphy

Co-Membership Vice Presidents: Karen Snow, Judy Cunningham

Treasurer: Margaret Smith

Co-Secretaries: Pat Dege, Marcia McCleary

Program Planning: Pat Gotch

AAUW Funds: Sharyn Siebert

Legal Advocacy Fund: Joan Kilianny

Local Scholarship: Ruthann Donahue

Tech Trek: Phyllis Mosher

The Messenger Editor: Ann Donaldson

Publicity: Carolyn Smith

Public Policy: Shirley Jaster

Historian: Nancy Iversen

TECH TREK

It is sooo wonderful when our branch is able to send a young woman, entering the eighth grade, to a Tech Trek Science and Math Camp at a university for a week! It is truly an honor for the student selected. In January letters were sent out to the principals of the six middle schools in our branch area. Science and Math teachers were asked for recommendations of the girls who showed a particular interest in science and/or math. Tech Trek information was then mailed to the recommended students and her parents. Upon receipt of the applications and one page essays, the selection committee chose ten

to interview. Of those ten, Brianna Sims was the one chosen to be our camper in 2010 at Stanford in July. A certificate of congratulations on her selection was presented (by me) to Brianna at her school's end of the year Awards night. Other students who had been recommended by their teachers, along with a letter, received a certificate congratulating them on being selected as an outstanding student by math/science teachers. The selection was difficult - all of us on the committee wanted to send each and every girl to the camp! The committee: Karen Snow, Valda Fletcher, and myself, Phyllis Mosher. A thank you letter was sent to Mrs. Beverly Power, Administrator at Forest Hill Manor, for allowing us to use the facility, a neutral and "warm" place, for the interview process. Letters were also sent to the teachers who had sent in recommendations thanking them for the time and attention they gave to our request. Prior to going to Camp Shirley Jaster graciously opened her home so the recipients of the awards from nearby branches could enjoy an ice cream social, along with their parents. This gave the girls an opportunity to meet each other and also to meet with an alumni, our 2009 branch recipient, Carol Nader.

Phyllis Mosher
Tech Trek Coordinator

Dear Monterey Peninsula Members of AAUW,

Thank you so much for sending me to Stanford to attend Tech Trek! I had a great time and it was an awesome experience. I made so many great, new friends!

We did so many awesome activities. For example, we built robots in "Robotics", looked at planets and stars during our "Star Party". We made rockets and stained glass windows from tissue paper, made ice cream in "Food Chemistry", went on a boat trip. . . and sooo many more!

During all the activities, I also learned a LOT! In "Bats" I learned that guano, bat droppings, make a really good fertilizer, and there are over 5,000 species of bats. During professional women's night, a bunch of women with great jobs that involve math and/or science, came and taught us about their jobs. My favorite was Danielle Feinberg. She is the Director of Photography for Lighting at Pixar. During our "Star Party". we learned a lot about all the constellations. through the camp we also learned so much more.

My favorite moment was the first night, because all my friends and I that are in my dorm, got together and learned about each other. It was really fun because after it, I felt like we have been friends for a long time.

Anyway, thanks again for sending me to Tech Trek. It was an awesome experience that I will NEVER forget.

Sincerely, Brianna Sims

A TGIF FOR TECH TREK!

October 16th, 6 p.m.

Let's raise some tens for our next Tech Trek Camper, 2011! Bring along a hearty appetizer, a drink you would like to share, and a (suggested) donation of \$10 per person to contribute to the Tech Trek coffers. Definitely feel free to donate more . . .and at any time during the year as well!! Our 2010 Tech Trek Scholarship Award recipient, Briana Sims, and her parents, will be with us to share her experiences and photos of Camp Grace Hopper at Stanford University in July. You will truly enjoy meeting this delightful young lady!

Place: The Murphy's abode in Carmel. Can't find it?? Perhaps Susan will stand out in the middle of the road with her dog as she had to do for me! (God bless them both!)

Please RSVP to me, Phyllis Mosher (372-7073, pebbleparadise@gmail.com) or Susan Murphy (622-9289, murphfam@redshift.com). Checks should be made payable to **AAUW CA SPF** (California Special Projects Fund) with the 'memo' to **Tech Trek**.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUES

The Local Scholarship program continues to be the principal community service aspect of AAUW MPB. The program is funded by Team for Democracy volunteers who staff the polls and donations from members. Thanks to two special elections this summer, we were able to fund four \$1200 awards for local students.

All four awardees are graduates of Monterey Peninsula College and will attend four year universities this fall. **Lindy Morrison** is straight A student who will pursue a teaching degree at CSUMB. In addition, she volunteers at Ord Terrace Elementary School and works 25 hours a week. She writes, "My heart breaks for students who are overlooked ...and I want to be the person who comes into their lives and shows them that they are worth so much more than they can possibly imagine." Lindy's college fund was decimated by her mother's recent health needs. With great poignancy in her thank you letter, she describes that our award is not just for her, but for her entire family.

Yuliana Vasquez will transfer from MPC to UC Santa Cruz to continue studies in Sociology with the goal of earning a MA in Family Therapy. She volunteers as a translator and mentor at Juvenile Hall in Salinas and in the Court Appointed Special Advocates program. Yuliana's parents are agricultural workers and she is the first in her family to attend college. This achievement came with personal challenge as she comes from a large family and, lacking supervision and self-confidence, she states that she made some wrong choices. At age 16 she became a single parent and her goal to succeed in acquiring a good education is in part inspired by her desire to give her son a better future. Our assistance will enable her to spend more time with her family as she continues her studies. She writes, "Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community."

Heather Cusson joined the military after high school to escape a dysfunctional family. In 2006 she was deployed to Afghanistan where she served as the Brigade Command Sergeant Major's personal security medic. She treated both adult and pediatric trauma of the worst imaginable degree. She has earned an AA and completed the prerequisites for the Coburn School of Nursing in addition to volunteer work at Meals on Wheels and SPCA. She is wait listed and will enter her clinical studies in 2012. This fall Heather will transfer to CSUMB to study Collaborative Health and Human Service with the long-term goal of earning an advanced degree in nursing.

Eva Ochoa graduated from Monterey Adult school and earned an AA in Child Development at MPC. This fall she will transfer to CSUMB to pursue a degree in Community Studies. Eva aspires to become a social worker for abused and neglected children. Eva sought escape from a difficult childhood in her studies. At present her goal to earn a college degree is supported by both her husband and children. She makes time to coach youth sports and hold several leadership positions at MPC. She writes, "Living in a less privileged community has made me realize the importance of higher education. I am thankful that there are wonderful people like you who are willing to help students with their education." Both Eva and Yuliana were featured in a front page Monterey Herald article in May.

Each of these women's lives has been positively impacted by the generosity of our AAUW membership. The scholarship fund always operates on a very slim margin and assistance by donations or volunteering to work at the polls would help insure that this community initiative can continue.

SAVE THE DATE

November 11, 2:00 PM Afternoon Teatime at the lovely home of member, Lucy Campen. Diane Bower, MPC instructor, will lecture on Frances Elkins, Interior Designer of La Mirada.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please change Maribeth Clark's home phone from (831) 384-5204 to (831) 372-1357.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

It all began in 1881 with a meeting of 17 like-minded women who had defied society's standards by earning college degrees. What started out as the Association of Collegiate Alumnae almost 130 years ago has grown into AAUW, a powerful network of more than 100,000 women who have influenced—and at times even shaped—the debate over equity in education.

AAUW-MPB is proud to be part of this historic tradition. We are one of the few organizations in Monterey County that focuses on making a difference for women on critical women's and civil rights issues. We offer a community of friends and professional contacts and we strive to be a local network for personal and professional growth. Please share the positive AAUW story with your friends and colleagues and encourage them to join us.

- Membership is open to anyone holding an associate or equivalent (RN), baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university.
- Student affiliation is open to anyone who doesn't have a degree but is currently enrolled in a two- or four-year accredited educational institution.
- Accredited colleges and universities can become partner members.

We have good news! AAUW membership dues for 2010-2011 remain at \$81 (\$49 national, \$16 state, and \$16 local branch). For those who itemize their income taxes, \$46 of the \$49 national dues portion is tax-deductible. Renewal envelopes were mailed to our members in May with the request to return your dues by June. If, for whatever reason, you haven't renewed, it's not too late. For those who decided not to renew, we ask you to please reconsider.

For information, please contact Membership Vice Presidents **Judy Cunningham**, 626-8845, or **Karen Snow**, 375-5220. We'll be glad to send you the Messenger newsletter and answer any questions you may have about AAUW-MPB!

2010-2011 AAUW-MPB Directory

Sharon Hoffman, a professional editor and word-smith, has fortunately (for us!) agreed to again produce the AAUW-MPB Membership Directory. We are grateful to Sharon who will soon begin work on this arduous task.

Please look at your entry in last year's Directory and send any corrections to Sharon at sshoff@aol.com. To keep membership informed, please send the corrections to the Membership Vice Presidents Judy Cunningham, jrc2900@msn.com, and Karen Snow, karensnowpb@aol.com.

It's a good idea when sending an email to put AAUW in the subject line. For example, when emailing Sharon Hoffman with a Directory change, please put "AAUW Directory" in the subject line.

Do you

need a ride?

**want to carpool?
(i.e. "go green!")**

Joan Kiliany has offered to coordinate drivers and riders for AAUW meetings. So do not stay home because you lack a ride, don't like to drive at night, get lost too easily, or just do not want to go alone! Also, if you have extra seats in your car and do not know who needs a ride, call Joan. She would love to get you together.

644-9344 or joan.kiliany@comcast.net

Monterey Peninsula Messenger is the bi-monthly publication of the Monterey Peninsula Branch of the American Association of University Women.

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SUSAN MURPHY

Finance VP: MARGARET SMITH

Co-Secretaries: PAT DEGE
MARCIA MCCLEARY

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Email articles to Ann Donaldson at
ann@wjdonaldson.com
