

## **SPOKESWOMAN**

August 2009

Volume 45, No. 13

### *Celebrate the 19th at Picnic in the Park*

In the month of August, the 19th falls on a Wednesday. It's a perfect opportunity to get together at the Farmers' Market, with local restaurants offering cuisine, live music, beer & wine, and of course local farm produce.

AAUW Davis will be setting up a membership table at 5 PM, and although we would love it if you come by and chat, it may be more comfortable to settle in the grassy picnic area (or a picnic table if available). Bring a collapsible chair just in case, and a picnic blanket too.

Located between B and C Streets, and Russell Blvd and 3rd. Parking may be rather difficult, so carpooling works best, with one person being dropped off at the Market (along with picnic gear) before re-parking.

Hope to see you there,

Barbara Bower

## Calendar

August 10, Monday – IBC Meeting (Interbranch Council)

August 13, Thursday – Board meeting at Chithra's

7:15 PM                      Any member is welcome

August 19, Wednesday –

Celebrate the 19<sup>th</sup> at the Farmers' Market

(See above article)

August 25, Tuesday – Book Group meeting

12 PM at Chithra    (See article below)

August 31, Monday –SPOKESWOMAN deadline

NOTICE      By Irene

Our very active member, Irene, is starting two new AAUW interest groups. The first is for a movie night watching a DVD at her home. It will be on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm. Small snacks as refreshments will be provided at the first meeting. After arrivals and conversation, the DVD movie would start at 6:30 and be selected from two choices by the attending group. The first movie will be on October 8 and you can call for a reservation or more information. Please let me know if you're interested.

There are many interesting events and places to visit in Davis and surrounding areas. We'd like to take advantage of this by planning short trips. Irene is willing to coordinate this section, and is working on a list of possibilities. She'd like any of your suggestions. We've enjoyed shopping trips, house tours, art walks, and moving gourmet meals and many others in the past. Let's get into some fun times again!

Please mail Irene your suggestions, or phone. She will give a prize for the most popular and exciting excursion idea that's turned in and done.

If you are contemplating participation in either or both new groups, or need further information, please call Irene.

## **SPEECH TREK**

Chithra will be calling a meeting to set up this year's speech contest. Please call her to give your input, get more information, and hopefully volunteer for one of the small tasks..

## **REMINDER**

If you know of a good speaker for one of our mission-based programs, please give that suggestion to any board member. (See last page).

## **WEB-SITE INFO**

On the web-site, <http://www.aauw.org/>, information about the national convention was published. One result is that the status quo was essentially maintained. In other words, people with an AA or 4 year college degree who believe in our mission can become members. It is not open to everyone (with no degree requirement).

Voting only takes place at the convention and each member present gets one vote. Acting as a delegate representing the branch is no longer in effect.

For more information please go to the web site.

## **BOOK CLUB**

By Betty Jane

The group will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. This is August 25<sup>th</sup>. Meet at noon at the home of Chithra, in South Davis. Read any book by Jane Austin. This is a chance to read again a book that you probably read years ago. Her books are probably on tape if you want to experience it another way. Bring a lunch. Drinks will be provided.

## FUTURING MEETING RESULTS

Eleven members were at the futuring meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup>. The breakfast at URC was tasty as usual. Members paid \$5.00 and the branch picked up the remaining cost. Rhonda welcomed the group, Juliana moderated, and Barbara recorded suggestions and discussion points on the six questions we considered.

The questions and highlights are presented below.

#1. What would you do to increase membership?

- <> Invite friends
- <> Try to revive former members
- <> Reduce branch dues of \$21 (National and State dues are set)
- <> Have more community visibility through letters to the editor and the Farmers' Market
- <> Have programs open to the public (meetings are for members only)
- <> Consider programs as member "perks" and remind attendees of AAUW benefits
- <> Make connections to other non-profit organizations like Sahaya, etc.
- <> Have fun field trips (see NOTICE for Irene's new group)
- <> Attract younger members through a day camp, baby sitting coop

#2. Do you feel AAUW is sufficiently visible in the community?

What would we do? What will you do?

- <> Use bulletin boards in grocery stores for event flyers and brochures
- <> Use community TV/radio. For example, replay the Reader's Theater play done for March Women's History month. (Dorothy will talk with Lois Richter)
- <> Have more visibility within Davis schools and with the school board. Have a presence at meetings
- <> Find opportunities for lobbying at the state level
- <> Attend local policy workshops. Set up communication for AAUW

board members to be informed and recruit volunteers. (Chithra will check into this

<> Pick a continuing cause and be of service

<> Volunteer at the Farmers' Market

#3. Should we have a monthly program or only 3-5 per year?

Should we continue to get together monthly on the 19<sup>th</sup>?

<> Yes to the 19<sup>th</sup>

<> Have luncheons monthly with a speaker rather than potluck or snacks

<> Make programs high profile so they attract higher public attendance yet are mission based

<> Distinguish between programs (public) and meetings (members only)

<> Keep the members who work in mind with our scheduling

<> Possible program topics

<> Status of older women to avoid becoming invisible

#4. We've reduced costs substantially by switching to a web-based newsletter and direct emails to most members (all but 14). Do you like this new method of communication?

<> Send a post card with events, dates to home addresses

<> Print out a web-based version of the calendar for Farmers' Market

#5. Is Speech Trek a good program to continue?

<> This is year 3. Yes, it's growing. We will target the competition for November instead of January

<> Volunteers to help Chithra and Harwant are Judy P, Marj and Rhonda, but more help is wanted. Chithra will call a meeting soon.

<> The board needs to discuss the prize dollar amounts

#6. Many local charities supply a wish list during the holidays. If the board picked a local charity to sponsor for the year, would you contribute?

<> STEAC has Adopt-a-Family

<> Have a soup supper and donate your mugs for the homeless

- <> Help with Grace House
- <> Why not donate 2 or 3 times a year
- <> Work with Davis BRIDGE (Lea Rosenberg)

Davis Branch

PO Box 4165

Davis, CA 95617

[www.aauwdavis.org](http://www.aauwdavis.org)

**Please use your roster for emails and phone numbers**

AAUW Davis Branch Officers

Fiscal year July 2009-June 2010

President

Barbara Bower

Past President

Rhonda Reed

Program/Membership Vice President

Chithra Lakshmanan

Treasurer

Gail Johnson

Secretary

Nan Yates

Media Relations

Harwant Khush

EF/LAF Chairs

Parto Aram

Juliana Wells

*SPOKESWOMAN* Editor

Juliana Wells