

THE SPOKESWOMAN



February 2009

Vol 45, No. 8



Farmers' Market Expert to Speak

February 21

2:30-4 pm, Blanchard Room

Yolo County Public Library, Davis branch,
315 E. 14th St

Bob Sommer is a Distinguished Professor of Psychology Emeritus at UC Davis, where he chaired (at different times) departments of Psychology, Environmental Design, Rhetoric & Communication, and Art. He did research on farmers' markets in conjunction with the Direct Marketing Program of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. This has been a very successful program. In 1976 there were only 5 certified farmers' markets in the State. Today there are over 400, many operating year-round.

Bob is author of 12 books, including Farmers' Markets of America. His talk will describe the history of farmers' markets, their benefits to small farmers (higher returns, a test market for new specialty items, and more organic produce), to consumers (lower prices, more varieties, fresher and more flavorful produce, a more social shopping experience), and to communities (bringing people downtown; creating a political and social center).

His talk will be illustrated with pictures of farmers' markets in Davis and worldwide by using a PowerPoint presentation.

Also, there will be an optional lunch before the program. We will meet at Ding How or Sushi Unlimited at the SaveMart Shopping Center on Anderson Rd at 12:30 for a no-host lunch (that means we all pay our own way, so you can determine how much economic stimulus you wish to apply.) Please RSVP to Rhonda (297-0460) by 10 am on Saturday the 21st so that we know what size table to hold. If you have a restaurant preference please respond by Monday February 16 as we'll make a final decision at that time.

Celebrate the 19th of February

This month we will gather for snacks and games at the home of Wendy Gregor, the daughter of member Irene Cameron. Directions to Wendy's house are as follows: from Mace Blvd and Interstate 80, drive south on Mace to Cowell, turn left (east); drive east on Cowell to Dresbach (almost 1 mile), turn right (south); drive south on Dresbach to Tufts, turn left (east). Wendy's is the first house on the left, at the corner of Tufts and Dresbach. Address: 5703 Tufts Street. Phone: 530-758-2408

Calendar of Upcoming Events Davis Branch AAUW February 2009

~~~~~

Monday, February 16  
**Meeting of Board  
& Officers**  
7:15 PM  
At the home of  
Rhonda Reed  
320 I St, Davis

~~~~~

Tuesday, February 17
Book Group
noon
At the home of
Dorothy Brazelton
1506 Willow, Davis
See accompanying article

~~~~~

Thursday, February 19  
*(In commemoration  
of the 19th Amendment  
on the 19th of the month)*  
**Celebrate the 19th**  
6:00-8:00 pm  
At the home of  
Wendy Gregor  
5703 Tufts, Davis  
*See accompanying article*

~~~~~

Saturday, February 21
**Presentation
By Bob Sommer**
2:30-4:00 pm
Blanchard Room
Yolo County Library,
Davis branch
315 E. 14th, Davis
See accompanying article

President's Message



*Rhonda Reed
President, AAUW Davis
2008-2009*

Every day you hear more and more news about economic problems throughout the country. All this bad news makes people fearful and inclined to take their money out of the bank, bury it in the back yard, and stay home. Sound a little extreme? I think we should look at the glass as half full, not half empty. An unemployment rate of 10% means that 90% of workers are still employed!!! Oftentimes, however, that employment is dependent on people being willing to continue to participate in the economy. Hence I am proposing an AAUW economic stimulus program for Davis.

When we schedule a program at a local restaurant, we contribute to the local economy. When we get together as a group and go to a movie, we contribute to the economy. I am asking for all members to think of ways that we can come together in our community and contribute to the economy. Jan Bridge suggested that those members who are eligible for

lunch at the Senior Center could pick a time to go as a group. This provides a triple benefit: support for this Senior Center program, support for the community services that these lunches fund, and a chance for AAUW members to get together. Call or e-mail Jan for details. I will organize a pre-program lunch on February 21st for those who would like to help stimulate the economy and have more social time. If you have ideas for other fun economic stimulus activities, let a board member know, submit a notice for the Spokeswoman, or if it's spur of the moment, Juliana can usually get out an e-mail or you can use your directory to call a few AAUW friends and go!

We can make a difference!

—Rhonda Reed

American Association of University Women Mission Statement:

AAUW advances equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

California AAUW Vision Statement:

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls

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.

From President Rhonda Reed: Thanks to Speech Trek Planning Team

Please share your thanks to all the members who helped make our Speech Trek Competition a success this year. Harwant Khush was our leader and kept us on track, while also offering her computer skills and Toastmasters experience. Our outreach to the schools included Harwant, Juliana Wells, Gail Johnson, Barbara Bower and Rhonda Reed. Chithra Lakshmanan was key in recruiting our esteemed judges and with keeping the pieces moving, even from the other side of the world. Jan and Adam Bridge were invaluable again in recording our contestants, and Judith Plank, an AAUW member as well as a Toastmaster, served as a judge. Thanks to all for a job well done.

Celebrate the 19th of January By Juliana Wells

The 19th was not only a pleasant social gathering, but a rewarding learning experience as well. Janice Bridge, hostess, had prepared presidential trivia questions to work as individuals and as a team. Doris Hass donated a First Ladies calendar, which was won by Char Cardey. Nan Yates, Barbara Bower, Marjorie Sorenson, Juliana Wells, Dorothy Brazelton, Irene Cameron, Mary Seabury, and Betty Jane Polk competed good-naturedly. Thank you, Jan.

ATTENTION NEW* MEMBERS

Here's a chance to help AAUW continue its excellent mission and programs. Volunteer for a Co-chair position for EF, LAF, or Program. Work with an experienced previous Board member and be a part of our organizational crew. Call Juliana (530) 758-3011 or email carwells@thegrid.net. It's a great learning opportunity.

*If you're not new, you can still become a Board member and help us continue to shine

Book Group News....by Betty Jane Polk

The book selected for February is, "ANTARCTICA", a novel by a local author Kim Stanley Robinson. This is one of the books that are part of the public library's RAY (Reading Around Yolo): a Yolo County Library program. They provide books for your groups along with a discussion guide. This makes an easy way for all the members to obtain their books at no cost.

Our next meeting will be at Dorothy Brazelton's home, 1506 Willow, 756-3150. The meeting is noon, February 17, 2009. Please bring a sandwich and dessert will be provided by the hostess. Any new members are welcomed.

AAUW Applauds President Obama for Signing Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into Law

Wage Discrimination Measure becomes First Bill Signed into Law by New President

WASHINGTON - AAUW applauds President Barack Obama for signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which restores the long-standing interpretation of civil rights laws and EEOC policies that allow employees to challenge any discriminatory paycheck they receive.

"President Obama has put pay discrimination at the top of the agenda, right where it belongs. The wage gap doesn't just hurt working women, it hurts families as well," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE, who attended the signing ceremony. "We are especially pleased that this measure is the first bill moved by Congress and signed by our new president, sending a strong message that economic issues and pay equity are a top priority."

Statistics on women in the workplace speak to the need for action. The average woman earns just 78 cents of every dollar earned by her male counterparts, and disparities appear just one year out of college—even for those with the same job and the same major. Women of color make even less.

"AAUW is hopeful that the swift action on this important law is a harbinger of what we can expect from both the new Congress and the new administration," said Lisa Maatz, AAUW director of public policy and government relations. "Thanks to the remarkable Lilly Ledbetter, who stood up to injustice despite great personal sacrifice, women and others in her shoes will be able to seek a fair day in court."

Lilly Ledbetter is perhaps the best-known face of pay equity. She worked for nearly two decades at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Gadsden, AL. Despite receiving top performance awards, Ledbetter discovered that she had been paid significantly less than male co-workers with the same job.

Past President Sue Little Has Moved!
Sue Little would like our members to know she's alive & well & living in the Milwaukee area! She'd like to share her new contact information & says, "Come see us at 'the Little B&B'"

3954 N. Harcourt Pl
Shorewood, WI 53211
414-231-3319
Email is still the same: myrtleconn@earthlink.net



Speech Trek 2009 Competition

January 31, 2009

Pictured are:

Judith Plank, Toastmaster and judge
AAUW Davis President Rhonda Reed
Runner-up Katrina Sabatier
Winner Manraj Dhesi
Mayor Ruth Asmundson, judge

AAUW Davis President Rhonda Reed, opened the program as 18 friends and members gathered for the presentation. She gave a history of Speech Trek, talked of the goals of AAUW, and explained how the judging would occur.

There were two students from DHS, Katrina Sabatier and Manraj Dhesi. Adam Bridge videotaped the speeches, and Jan Bridge assured sound quality. There were two judges, Mayor Ruth Asmundson, and Toastmistress Judy Plank. This year's topic was "Gender Equity in Education." Each student was expected to talk for five minutes without notes.

Katrina spoke first and gave reasons why gender-separate classes in math and science should be instituted for grades seven and eight. Manraj discussed the difference between equality and equity, and pointed out how violence and cultural practices hinder equity for girls and women.

The judges selected Manraj Dhesi for First Place (\$200 and his presentation entered in the Northern District contest). Katrina Sabatier received \$100. Both students were given helpful critiques from the judges and enthusiastic applause from the audience. Rhonda gave each a bouquet, and thanks for their hard work and a chance to appreciate the issue of gender equity from a young person's viewpoint.

Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, Con't

After her November 1998 retirement, she filed suit under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and was awarded back pay and other remedies in a jury trial. The U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision not only erased Ledbetter's award, but also left women, minorities, and others in Ledbetter's situation with virtually no recourse to pay discrimination.

"The wage gap not only affects a woman's paycheck, it can eventually reduce retirement and social security income. That could mean the loss of \$1 million or more over one woman's lifespan," Hallman said.

"This victory has energized us," said Maatz. "President Obama and Congress have made a good down payment on their promise to close the wage gap, but we're not resting on our laurels. The House also passed the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill which would close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act, and AAUW and our allies are determined to see the Senate do the same."

Read more about AAUW's "Keep the Change" pay equity campaign at http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/actionpages/payequity.cfm.

To read Lilly Ledbetter's letter in support of both bills, go to www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/actionpages/upload/LillyLedbetterletter.pdf.

Go to www.aauw.org/advocacy/issue_advocacy/transition.cfm to see AAUW's recommendations to the new administration and the new Congress on workplace opportunity, pay equity, education, work/life balance, and other key issues.

Capitol Counties Inter-Branch Council EF Luncheon and Silent Auction

Date: March 21, 2009

Location: Zigato's Bar & Grille in the Clarion Hotel Cal Expo,
2600 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95821

Time: 11:30 am -2:30 pm **Cost: \$20** Advance Reservations are required!
RSVP deadline Postmarked March 6

Our Speaker will be Winnie Tam Hung, an EF American Fellow at UC Davis. Her dissertation research focuses on immigrant and second-generation Chinese American youth in lower Manhattan's Chinatown. Her project considers questions about globalization and economic restructuring through the lens of individual experience.

We will also hold a Silent Auction to benefit EF, so bring your checkbooks! You can expect opportunities to bid on unique art work, gift baskets, tickets to sporting events, vacation get-aways and more! Proceeds will benefit the Branch that donates the item.

To register, please detach and send the completed form below and your check to:

Marty McKnew
9365 Castleview Drive
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Make check checks Payable to "Sacramento AAUW"
RSVP deadline Postmarked March 6

Yes, I will attend the March 21 Capitol Counties IBC EF Luncheon! Enclosed is my check for \$20 (per person).

Name _____

Branch affiliation _____

Phone _____, e-mail _____.

Meal Choice. Please select one option:

(meal includes salad, sourdough bread, and coffee, tea or iced tea)

Roasted Sirloin with Mashed potatoes

Rosemary Chicken

Pasta Suzanne

Attention Davis Branch Members!

We'll have a silent auction at this luncheon. It's a chance for you to find interesting items to buy and for us to earn money for the EF fund. We need baskets in price range \$20 and up to be donated. These could be wine or other beverage baskets (wine, glasses, corkscrew, directions to wine tasting facilities, cheese, bread, towel, mug, hot chocolate, cider, teas, tea cup, book of quiet reflections); bath and relaxation baskets (soap, lotions, bubble bath, soft cloths, candles); tickets to events (Mondavi Center, movies, sports, local presentations); vacation home weekends; book baskets (self-improvement, mysteries, poetry, current mix of new magazines, crossword or sudoku puzzles); quilt basket gift certificates; garden basket (seeds, gloves, tools, décor); kitchen baskets (dish towels, hot pads, trivets, tools) and any other new items that you think others might buy (posters, paintings, photographs, banners, autographs).

We hope you can **carry them** to the luncheon and participate. If you cannot attend, please give your basket donations to Juliana Wells, 1102 Eureka Ave., Davis, in March, before the 20th.



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

DAVIS BRANCH
P.O. BOX 4165
DAVIS, CA 95617
www.aauwdavis.org

AAUW Davis Branch Officers

fiscal year July 2008-June 2009

President	
Rhonda Reed	salmonlady@sbcglobal.net
Program Vice Presidents	
Chithra Lakshmanan	chithralux@hotmail.com
Marjorie Sorenson	758-4164
Parto Aram	parto@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	
Gail Johnson	gejohnson08@comcast.net
Secretary	
Nan Yates	nsyates@ucdavis.edu
Spokeswoman Editor	
Barbara Bower	bebower@ucdavis.edu
Media Relations	
Harwant Khush	harwant@khush.org
Educational Foundation/Legal Advocacy Fund Chairs	
Eleanor Lake	eleanorlake@sbcglobal.net
Parto Aram	parto@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter patrons 2008-2009:

Jan Bridge, Adam Bridge, Doris Hass, Bett Marriott, Shirley Rolewicz, Pat Yokom, Juliana Wells, Karen Manelis, Dorothy Brazelton, Debbie Nichols Poulos, Rhonda Reed, Gail Johnson

**Look Forward to These Events
In the Upcoming Months:**

February 21, 2009--Bob Sommer, speaking on "Emergence of Farmers' Markets" in the Blanchard Room, Yolo Co Public Library, 2-4 PM PM

March 21, 2009--EF Luncheon & Silent Auction (organized by IBC) Zigato's, 2600 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento, 11:30 AM

April--AAUW Annual meeting at University Retirement Community

April 16 & 17—UCD Feminist Film Festival, Veteran's Memorial Center

May 9, 2009--author Liberty Kovacs, Blanchard Room, Yolo Co Public Library, 2 to 5 PM

June--Installation of Board & Officers

July--BBQ (Juliana & Char's home)

Update your rosters: new email address for Shirley Rolewicz
swrolewicz@live.com