

SPOKESWOMAN

The March **Spokeswoman** has a different look, because Barbara Bower is out of town on family matters.

MARCH 21 LUNCHEON for EF

The deadline for making reservations for this luncheon from 11:30- 2:30 at Zigato's in Sacramento, is March 6th. Your online February **Spokeswoman** has the form. Cost is \$20. Call Juliana 758-3011 if you wish to carpool. The speaker is Winnie Tam Hung, an EF Fellow at UC Davis. She will discuss globalization and economic restructuring.

You have an opportunity to donate a gift basket and bid on the baskets of others. For questions, call Juliana.

CELEBRATE THE 19th

This gathering took place at the home of Wendy Gregor, (Irene Cameron's daughter), and was very enjoyable for its company, food, and entertainment. Ten of us* ate, talked, told jokes, discussed AAUW's future, and played a memory game.

Join us for these pleasant social get-togethers. The next is March 19, Thursday, at the home of Harwant Khush, 5:30 pm- 7:00. She is at 39399 Black Hawk Place. Harwant would appreciate an RSVP by the 18th. (530) 750-2440. She has provided more information below.

*Nan Yates, Rhonda Reed, Marjorie Sorenson, Gail Johnson, Eleanor Lake, Debbie Lorraine, Irene Cameron, Lois Baer, Elaine Ginosar, and Juliana Wells

FEBRUARY 21 SPEAKER

Bob Sommer, Distinguished Professor of Psychology Emeritus at UC Davis, spoke to a small, but very appreciative audience in the Blanchard room. He used a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the history and importance of Farmers' Markets. Davis is one of the original five which were certified in 1976 by Jerry Brown (governor) and Rose Bird (Secretary of Agriculture).

Farmers' Markets allow the farmer to make more money, the consumer to get fresh and unusual varieties at a good price, and the community to bond, to have a meeting place, and to provide areas for social caring and grassroot politics.

Bob also displayed his artwork drawings of the incredible varieties of eggplant and peppers. Rhonda, Nan, Juliana, Marjorie, Eleanor and her granddaughter, Heather, enjoyed lunch at Ding How before Mr. Sommer's presentation.

APRIL 4th BUSINESS MEETING

Save this Saturday. From 9:00 am until 11:00, we will meet at the University Retirement Center, have breakfast, and vote in the new officers for 2009-2010. This is a no cost to you, good food affair. There are some positions open. Please consider volunteering at this meeting to help complete our board.

The following nominations are accepted:

President: Barbara Bower

President-Elect: open

Treasurer: Gail Johnson

Secretary: Nan Yates

Program: Chithra Lakshmanan and open

Membership: open

EF: Eleanor lake, Juliana Wells

LAF: Parto Aram, Juliana Wells

Media: Harwant Khush

Spokeswoman Editor: open

CELEBRATE THE 19TH IN MARCH

Harwant Khush has volunteered her home for the gathering.

Time: 5:30-7:00

Theme—none

Food and Drinks will be provided by the hostess (no need to bring any item). I will improvise some **discussion topics** to get to know each other or just for fun. If time permits I will give show some **slides** on how to improve old and discolored photos with Photoshop.

Her telephone Number is: 530-750-2440

Address is: 39399 Black Hawk Pl, Davis

Her home is located in the **North Davis Meadows 2 on Rd. 29**

Driving directions from the Market Shopping Center for those who come from West Davis and from the Nugget Supermarket for those who come from the East and South Davis.

Google map showing our residence

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=39399+Black+Hawk+Pl+Davis,+CA+95616>

Driving directions to 39399 Black Hawk Pl, Davis, CA 95616 from The Market Shopping Center (W. Covell, Blvd, Davis) 3.3 mi – about 7 mins

1. Head west on W Covell Blvd/E6 354 ft

2. Turn right onto the State Hwy 113 ramp to Woodland 0.3 mi

3. Merge onto CA-113 N 1.7 mi
4. Take exit 31 for Rd 29 0.3 mi
5. Turn right at Highway 29 0.8 mi
6. Turn left at Silverado Dr 0.2 mi
7. Turn left at Black Hawk Pl

Destination will be on the right (2nd home)

Driving directions to 39399 Black Hawk Pl, Davis, CA 95616 from the Nugget Supermarket at E. Covell Blvd. (distance 5 miles)

Head Northeast from E. Covell Blvd to Pole Line Rd 1.8 miles

Turn left at Road 29 (2.7) miles

Turn left at Silverado Dr.

Turn left at Black Hawk Pl (second home on the right side of the road)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month you will notice that we are doing things differently. Instead of the usual format for our newsletter, The Spokeswoman, we are providing our monthly announcements and calendar via e-mail without the fancy formatting and structure. For those who still request a print version, again, it will be simply the information. Why is this? The immediate reason is that our Spokeswoman editor, Barbara Bower, is away tending to important family needs for several weeks. However, this current situation brings up the realities that our Branch and its future are facing.

It is no secret that our Branch has not been as vital recently as it once was. It is fair to say that other organizations in our community seem to have more going on than AAUW Davis. It is also accurate that all organizations today are challenged to find good leadership and a relevant mission. I would like to open a dialogue with our members and prospective members to explore what our future shall be.

On a national level AAUW has been in a process since 2005 to canvass its membership and revamp and revitalize its mission. I see a lot of exciting things happening, like our Executive Director, Linda Hallman, being present in the Oval Office when President Barack Obama signed the "Lilly Ledbetter Bill" recently which prevents women in the future from the gender based inequities in salary that she was subjected to. She was there because of the significant role that AAUW played in getting this bill passed.

On the national level and the state level, the Boards of Directors have spent thousands of hours reviewing and revamping their organizational structures to make them more effective and efficient to make best use of the funding they receive while furthering the AAUW mission.

Now, at the local level we need to do the same. We need to think about what makes AAUW unique and the value it provides to us individually, but also the value that having a branch in Davis contributes not only to our community locally, but how what we do serves a larger purpose for our nation and for women of other nations. In the next months I will share my thoughts about many questions I have heard from members about the future of our branch and I hope that we can have a dialogue about these issues, both via e-mail and in person when we get together on the 19th, or for programs. I encourage all members to share their questions with me or another Board member in the coming weeks and we will engage in a conversation.

I will start with the question: Why aren't we as big or as active as the University Farm Circle? Why shouldn't I join them instead of AAUW Davis Branch?

My response is: Join both, but for different reasons. The University Farm Circle does offer many outings and activities for their membership. I'm not a member, so I am relying on the experiences of others. They appear to offer many of the same kinds of activities that I experienced in other AAUW branches in the past: Bridge groups, lunch groups, walking groups, book groups, general outings to fun places. The reality is that there are many more opportunities for these activities now than in the 1980's. Book stores sponsor book groups, the Senior Center sponsors Bridge groups, Sierra Club and Yolo Hiker sponsor walking and hiking groups. The difference is that when these groups get together, they are not coming together because they believe in equity for women and girls.

University Farm Circle does conduct fundraising for scholarships for local students, but they do not provide scholarships for women that reduce the most significant barrier to completing their doctoral degree: funding to allow them to finish their dissertation without additional burdens of self-funding through teaching assistantships or outside work. They also focus on supporting only UCD students, while AAUW selects the best and brightest women in the country – many of whom have or do attend UCD.

As best that I can tell from their website, University Farm Circle provided advocacy in 1923 to the University regarding pay scales for women, but they provide no advocacy for equity in tenure decisions, and women are still underrepresented in UCD faculty. Nor do they provide support for legal cases when the University may be acting inappropriately.

University Farm Circle does offer many interesting opportunities and connections with the University. With a membership of 438, if only 10% of their members take an active part in running the organization and activities, that would mean that it takes almost 44 people to provide the activities they offer. It also would appear that they are having similar challenges in leadership because they presently have co-presidents, which usually indicates that their membership is busy and sharing the workload is the only way the necessary tasks of running an organization get done, even with over 400 members. AAUW Davis has 42 members this year, and I am proud to say that we have over 20% of our membership actively involved in running our Branch. For our size I think we have accomplished much this year and offer many opportunities to our members, particularly opportunities to improve equity for women and girls.

In summary, AAUW and the University Farm Circle have some similar activities, but they

have key differences. AAUW's mission is focused on equity for women and girls through education, advocacy and research, working at local, state and national arenas. The University Farm Circle provides scholarships to UCD students and activities for their members. Both are worthy organizations, but different purposes. Food for thought?

Before my next message, **I hope to get more feedback from members on what you value about our Branch.** Thanks in advance for sharing.

Rhonda