

# THE SPOKESWOMAN



May 2009

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## Join us for our May Program Saturday May 23, 2009

**10: 00 AM to Noon, Blanchard Room, Davis Library  
315 E. 14<sup>th</sup> St., Davis CA**

The AAUW Davis branch is sponsoring a presentation by author **Liberty Kovacs** on her two books: Building a Reality-Based Relationship and Liberty's Quest.

Liberty Kovacs' name is a study in irony! She was born into a Greek immigrant family. When she was 17 she rebelled against the marriage her father had arranged. "I wanted to go to high school," she said. "I was highly motivated to go to high school. I don't think my father realized what he was doing when he gave me the name 'LIBERTY!'" She continued living with her parents but friction between parent and sibling grew when she attended a nearby nursing school. As she grew and developed, she became aware of three goals that she wanted to achieve for herself. These became her guiding force of her life: **freedom, education and her own identity.**

Kovacs worked her way through nursing school and soon after her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday married her high school friend, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet James Wright, and therefore escaped her family situation.

They had two sons, Franz & Marshal. Franz won his Pulitzer award in 2006. Liberty and James were divorced in 1962.

Kovacs picked up the pieces of her life and moved to San Francisco to earn a graduate degree as a nurse psychotherapist. She also worked as an instructor at UCSF from 1965-1970.

She later taught family therapy and communication therapy at the mental health service administered by UC Davis. While at UC Davis she met Miklos Michael Kovacs and they were married 6 weeks after they met. She returned to graduate school and earned a Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy. With years of experience she developed a model of marriage that she shared very successfully with thousands of couples.

We ardently encourage members to attend this program to meet the remarkable woman and author Liberty Kovacs.

*Refreshments and snacks will be served at this event.*

## **May is membership renewal month!**

It's that time again – watch your mailboxes for your annual membership renewal reminder

### Calendar of Upcoming Events Davis Branch AAUW May 2009

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Tuesday, May 12  
**Book Group**  
noon

At the home of  
Chithra  
*See accompanying article*

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Monday, May 18  
**Meeting of Board  
& Officers**  
7:15 PM  
At the home of  
Barbara

~~~~~  
Wednesday, May 20  
**Membership Tabling &  
Dinner Out**  
**aka Picnic in the Park**  
**At the Davis Farmers'  
Market**  
5:30 PM  
Community Park, Davis  
(Between B & C Sts, and 3rd  
and Russell)

~~~~~  
Saturday, May 23  
**Presentation by author**  
**Libby Kovacs**  
10:00 AM  
Yolo Co Public Library  
315 E. 14th St, Davis  
*See article at left*  
(join us for lunch  
afterwards)

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# President's Message



*Rhonda Reed  
President, AAUW Davis  
2008-2009*

As I watch the blooms of my Easter lilies fade, I look outside and see my rose bushes starting their riot of color that they will carry on through to the fall. It reminds me of the cycle of things: things grow, come into full bloom, fade, rest and begin again. This cycle applies not just to plants, but it can describe the process of your day, or the stages in the development of an organization, like our Davis AAUW Branch. We began an important dialogue at our April Annual meeting about future directions for our branch. I hope we will continue that discussion and develop some good action items at our futuring meeting on June 20. Please read and consider the following questions in advance of the meeting to improve our discussion. If you will be unable to attend, please take the opportunity to provide your thoughts in writing to me or any Board member before the meeting date. We will read and share them there in your absence.

## Futuring for AAUW Davis:

### Overarching Questions:

- Why do I belong to AAUW?
- What image do I want our Branch to project?

### Action Questions

- What would you do to increase membership?
- Should Branch Officers and organizers pay lower dues?
- We have reduced costs substantially this year by switching to a web-based newsletter and direct e-mails to most members. Do you like this new communication method?
- Do you feel AAUW is sufficiently visible in our Davis community? What more or less should we do? What will you do?
- Do you feel that Speech Trek is a good program to continue?
- Do you think that we should have a monthly program? Should we have 3 to 5 programs per year and continue to get together monthly on the 19<sup>th</sup>?

## **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.

- If AAUW Davis organized a 3 meeting workshop on financial literacy for these economic times, involving guest presenters, would you attend? Would you bring a friend? Should we charge \$85.00 for the workshop and include a membership in the fee?
- At the holidays, many local charities will supply a wish-list of goods that are needed for their program, such as food and coats for a homeless shelter. If the Board picked a local charity to sponsor for the year, would you contribute?

*-Rhonda*

## **Celebrate the 19th of May**

By remembering to vote in the local election!  
Then: join us at the Farmers' Market (Picnic in the Park)  
the following afternoon/evening, Wednesday May 20 at  
5:30 PM

## New Policy Regarding Online Privacy

Our policy going forward regarding making information public via posting our newsletter online is as follows: new members will be announced to existing membership via email. The information circulated will consist of new members' names and addresses. In the body of the newsletter itself, only email addresses will be listed; no last names, addresses or phone numbers will be listed. Once again, this applies only to the online version.

## Book Group News

by Betty Jane

Remember Patricia Neal the movie star? Her struggle of having a child while she was in a coma? Learn about the support of her husband during her return to health. We are going to read Pat & Roald by Barry Farrell. This book was suggested by Dorothy and can be found in the public library. The group in May will meet on the second Tuesday at noon at Chithra's. For details please call her at her home phone number.

## New AAUW Bylaws to Be Voted on at Association Convention

At the Association Convention beginning June 26 in St. Louis, attendees will vote on new bylaws that contain significant changes in the structure of AAUW. Major changes include:

The 501(c)(3) corporation (currently the Educational Foundation) will become the primary corporation, housing the membership, most of the assets, and most of the programs, and be called AAUW. The 501(c)(4) corporation (currently the Association) will become a small corporation solely for the purpose of voter education, voter guides, and related activities that cannot be carried out by a 501(c)(3) corporation. Both are nonprofit corporations exempt from federal tax, but only contributions to 501(c)(3) corporations are tax deductible for the donor. The 501(c)(4) corporation exists for the purpose of lobbying and will be called the AAUW Action Fund. A major portion of national dues will be tax deductible to members.

Membership will be open to anyone supporting the mission and purpose of AAUW, eliminating the educational requirement for membership.

More flexibility will be granted to states and branches to determine what leadership structure best fits their size and style and best enables them to promote and fulfill the AAUW mission.

When the bylaws become effective July 1, 2009, every member will have the opportunity to vote, rather than the current delegate system.

You are encouraged to read the proposed Bylaws in more detail, in the Spring/Summer 2009 issue of Outlook.

You can also find these on the website, [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) and enter your member number to access the bylaws.

Branches that send no members to the convention can still have a voice, by submitting proposed amendments to the new Bylaws by mail by May 15. Branch presidents have information on the amendment process. **If anyone would like to express their opinion regarding these changes and suggest a message to forward to the national convention, please contact any Davis Board member ASAP.**

## The Feminist Film Festival was great!

By Parto

The collection of short movies made by women from across the globe (two from Davis, Ireland, California, Illinois, Turkey, UK, Sweden, Netherlands, India, Canada and elsewhere) were educational, heart warming and funny.

I went to see the films on Thursday evening, on Friday evening Rhonda and Eleanor joined me. The length of the films varied from 8 to 54 minutes long.

The subjects covered many issues that women face in their struggle for equal rights.

Here are some examples:

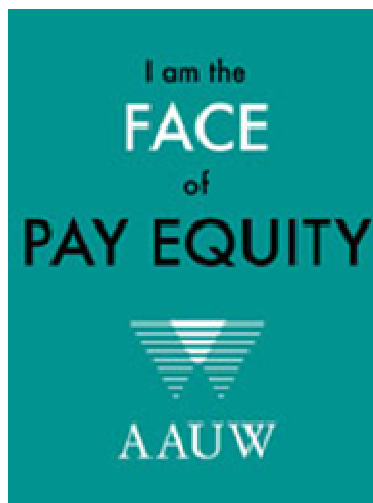
- A documentary about what contemporary feminism looks like, and why we still need it.
  - A film on postwar female Jewish identity and sexuality.
  - A film on political activism of four Brazilian women.
- A global documentary on Camera women's struggle from Hollywood, Bollywood, Afghanistan, China, France, Japan, Mexico, Senegal.
- A film on the subject of "Honor" in Turkey.
  - A film on Sacramento City Roller Derby women.
  - A film on the subject of using rape as torture and intimidation in war and by the state
  - A film dealing with transgender and queer (this term is now co-opted by the gay/transgender community) -- journey through the struggles of two young people
  - A film and a critique of the hypersexualization of young people in our media
- A film on the story of pilot and pioneer Jerry Truehii, who was trained to become one of the first lady astronauts.

I left the theater remembering how far we have come, and how far we have to go in our work for equality.

The collection of films from so many countries highlighted the fact that women face discrimination and injustice *everywhere*.

It was truly inspirational to see that in every corner of the world women are mobilizing to bring about awareness and change.

Hope to see you all at the next Davis Feminist Film Festival.





AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

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*fiscal year July 2008-June 2009*

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*Newsletter patrons 2008-2009:*

Jan, Adam, Doris, Bett, Shirley, Pat, Juliana,  
Karen, Dorothy, Debbie, Rhonda, Gail

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

**May 23, 2009--author Liberty Kovacs, Blanchard Room, Yolo Co  
Public Library, 10 AM to noon**

**June--Installation of Board & Officers, futuring meeting  
July--BBQ (Juliana & Char's home)**

We would like to express  
our appreciation for Carolyn's  
donation towards defraying the cost  
of our annual meeting  
breakfast at URC

*Many thanks to all  
who have been keeping Juliana  
in your thoughts and prayers*