



**Pleasant Hill Branch
N.E.W.S.
Now/Events/Women/Success**

Volume 50 Issue 7

March 2008

**The Pleasant Hill Branch
of
American Association of University Women
Invite you to an evening with
SISTERS IN CRIME**

Saturday, March 29, 2008



Featuring four mystery writers

**Mark Coggins
Camille Minichino
Ann Parker
Penny Warner**

**Book signing and Sales following the program
Hillcrest Congregational Church
404 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill**

7:00 pm: Dessert and Beverages

7:30 pm: Program begins

\$10.00 donation benefits the AAUW Educational Foundation

Tickets are available from any PHAAUW member or at the door

2007 -2008 Board

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Pleasant Hill AAUW N.E.W.S.
Is published ten times a year by
and for the American
Association of University
Women.

May/June & July/August are
combined issues.

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Copy deadline for the April
N.E.W.S. is due on March 15,
2008

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<http://www.aauw-ph.org>

PITHY PRESIDENTIAL PROSE

Co President's Kay Ernst & Marlene Maksel

Well, what can I say? Our 50th
anniversary celebration exceeded all
of our expectations! How wonderful
to see Bobbie Brooks, Nora Doolittle,
Carolyn Barclay, Terry Bowen, Ann
Hicks, Lin Larsen, and many others
who came for the event. And, the CA
AAUW State Officers ~ I think we
felt well feted! Many thanks to Margi
Alkire as Chair of the event and to her
wonderful team of workers.



Our next big event will be the “annual” fund raiser for EF ~ “Sisters in
Crime.” Marlene DeLaurenti and Sandy Wolfe are hard at work and
tickets will be on sale soon. The date is Saturday, March 29th, so be sure
to put it on your calendar. The authors have already been selected; as
usual, it promises to be a fun-filled evening.

As I mentioned before, our annual State Convention will be in Rohnert
Park in April. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the connectedness of
our Branch to the State and to Association. Because it is so close in
proximity to us, Kay and I hope that many of you will decide to attend. It
will be at the Sonoma Doubletree Inn in April ~ from the 4th through the
6th. Your Perspective magazine should be arriving any day with all of the
details.

Even though Tech Trek and LAF don't have fundraisers per se, they
welcome any contributions you might feel you can afford. This is strictly
voluntary, of course.

Hope to see all of you at an Interest Section this month. Interest Sections
are the “meat and potatoes” of our branch, so c'mon and pick one to check
out. Marlene

Health Care in California

The Senate Health committee recently killed the health care reform bill
negotiated between Gov. Arnold Schwarznegger and Assembly Speaker
Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, after Senator Don Perata requested an
independent fiscal analysis of the plan.

The governor and Nunez spent a year trying to pass health care reform in
CA. At a recent press conference Nunez criticized the non partisan
Legislative Analyst's office for not doing his bill “justice”, and without
naming her, accused the chairwoman, Sheila Keuhl (Los Angeles) of not
conducting a fair hearing on it.

“We did not have a hearing,, not for one minute, on the facts of this bill,”
the speaker said.

The analyst's report concluded the health plan could wind up billions of
dollars in the red within years if financial projections were off slightly.

Keuhl, (Democrat) favors a single-payer, Canadian-style health care
system. However, she held an exhaustive 11 hour hearing on the
Schwarznegger-Nunez plan, which received only one vote.

California AAUW favored SB840 (Keuhl's bill) and lobbied for its
passage. Senator Keuhl vows to continue working for passage of this bill
through the end of her term 2008.

Shirlee Thompson, Public Policy chair

Thanks to our N.E.W.S. Supporters

Moneymovers Investment Club

will meet on Monday, March 10, 7:00 pm at
UBS office, 2185 N California Blvd,
St 400., WC



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Save the Dates: More info to follow:

Saturday, April 26, 2008

Sonoma County Genealogical Society Spring Seminar 9-4 Santa Rosa. CA. Registration by 4/16. \$25.00 +\$12/box lunch. www.scgs.org

Tuesday, April 29th, 2008

Card party fundraiser for LAF/ Gayle Garrison

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Chamber mixer with JFK University and PHAAUW. Plan to attend!

Interest Group Meetings:

MORNING BOOKS will meet on Wednesday, March 5, 10 am at Gayle Garrison's, 2130 Orin Lane, PH. We will be discussing the wonderful classic The Good Earth by Pearl S. Buck. China was as fascinating when Buck wrote the book as it is today. In April we will be reading Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortensen and May's selection is still being decided. Don't miss these stimulating discussions.

EVENING BRIDGE will meet Monday, March 3rd 7:00 pm. @ Lola Hammons'.

AAUW BOARD MEETING will meet at Suzanne Salter's, 275 Appalachian Dr. PH @ 7:15 pm Wednesday, March 12th. 2008.

IN INDELIBLE INK will meet on Wednesday, March 12th, 10 am, at Suzanne Mesetz's., 1099 Orchard Road, Lafayette. Our topic is "The Fortune Teller Looked Into My Palm and said...." We invite everyone to come and tell their story. Fiction is always welcome. Everything and anything is acceptable.

EVENING BOOKS will meet on Monday, March 24th, 7 pm. at Gretel Holit's, 1156 Bacon Way, Lafayette. We will be discussing Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortensen.

This is a true story about a young man who decided to build schools for girls in Pakistan..

Please call Gretel 939-6436, if you are planning to attend. If you want to carpool, we will leave from Marlene's around 6:45 pm. Please let Marlene know. **MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, March 27th. We usually pick the movie at the beginning of that week, so please call Marlene (689-5439) if you are interested. We always have coffee (sometimes lunch if it is an early movie) after the movie to discuss it.

NIMBLE FINGERS will meet on Friday, March 21st, 10:30 am. @ Judi Hamberg's
Bring your handiwork and come join this friendly, helpful group.

PLAYREADING will meet on Tuesday, March 18th. 10 am at Marilyn Tubbs'.

FRUGAL FOODIES

will meet on Sunday, March 30th 6:00 pm at Delamonti's in Pleasant Hill. (4th Sun is Easter)
Be sure to bring your Entertainment Book and enjoy a, social meal with friends.

GENEALOGY - On Saturday March 15 at 10 am. there will be a FREE lecture "Organize your Paper File in a Computer Day Age" by Jan Siegmann. This will be at the LDS church, 3700 Concord Blvd., Concord. We will go to lunch after the lecture. Call Kay Ernst for more info.

The Nominating Committee has recommended the following changes to the elected slate of officers for 2008-2009:

President: Kit Hein
V President's: (Membership) Margi Alkire
Diane Gartner
V President's: (Program) Bea Ball
Eileen Bordenave
V President's: (EF) Marlene DeLaurenti
Judy Onopchenko
Sandra Wolfe

V President: (LAF) Victoria Maat

Secretary: Ish Mendonsa

Treasurer: Suzanne Salter

Election will take place at the March meeting.
Nominating Committee: **Kit Hein and Diane Gartner, co-chairs, Elizabeth DiPietro, Alvera Welsh, Jean DeGregory with Marlene Maksiel and Ginny Hargrave as alternates.**
Eileen Bordenave, Parliamentarian

Meet our 2008 Authors

Mark Coggins earned two degrees & a Phi Beta Kappa key from Stanford. His first novel, The



Immortal Game, was nominated for three mystery book awards. His second Vulture Capital was recognized as a defining portrayal of the dark side of Silicon Valley. His third, Candy from Strangers, a gripping hard-boiled exploit and his fourth,

Runoff was published in November 2007. He has worked for a number of Silicon Valley computer & venture capital firms. He has been the keynote speaker at computer software conferences and has appeared on television and radio to discuss his work. He lives in San Francisco with his wife Linda and their cat Taki. Contact his website

<http://www.immortalgame.com>

Camille Minichino is

making a return visit to our annual Sisters in Crime program. Camille received her Ph.D from Fordham Univ. in 1968. She has had a long career in research, teaching and writing. She has written 8 novels in the Periodic Table Mystery series. She is beginning a series of Murder in Minature showcasing her interest in dollhouses.



She is currently involved in numerous writing clubs including president of NorCal Sisters in Crime, California Writers Club and NorCal Mystery Writers of America. More information is available on her website

<http://www.minichino.com>.

Ann Parker is making her second appearance at our Sisters in Crime



program. She is a science writer by day and a historical mystery writer by night. Her Silver Rush historical mystery series, published by Poisoned Pen Press, is set in the silver

boomtown of Leadville, Colorado, in the early 1880's. The first in the series, Silver Lies, was chosen a "best mystery of 2003" by Publishers Weekly and the Chicago Tribune. Iron Ties is the sequel to Silver Lies.

Reviews report the second mystery finds plenty of convincing action. Ann lives in the San Francisco Bay area with her husband and two children.

More info is available at

<http://www.annparker.net/about.htm>

Penny Warner is the author of over 50 books, fiction and non-fiction for children and adults. She has published 5 books in the Connor Westphal mystery series about a deaf journalist in a small town in the CA



gold country Flat Skunk. She has published a middle grade mystery series about 4 fearless girl scouts in Troop 13. Her newest book The Official Nancy Drew Handbook(Quirk Books) was published in November 2007. She is currently teaching Child Development at DVC in San Ramon. She lives in Danville, CA with her husband and children.

Contact <http://www.pennywarner.com> for more information about her published books.

First Friday Forum Speaker Series

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church

1pm refreshments, 1:30pm Speaker

March 7, 2008

Tom Vacar

KCBS Consumer Rights Advocate

Consumer Rights from Energy Prices to ID theft

April 4, 2008

Dr. Franklin Zimring

UC Boalt Law Professor

The Great American Crime Decline of the 1990's:

Why Did it Happen, What Happens Now?

(More dates to follow next month)

We extend our sincere sympathy and condolences to the family on the death of our dear friend and member Gayle Carr. Gayle was an active AAUW member and she will be remembered for her unconditional assistance to all who asked for help and advice with their handicraft projects.

A Celebration of her Life is planned for Saturday, April 12th. More details later.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.....

The 50th Anniversary committee did a WONDERFUL job! Members worked very hard and had wonderful ideas and lots of energy to work on them. They attended meeting after meeting. It was a great committee!

Here are some special thanks to members of the committee (but note that this is only a partial list of their help, and not a complete list!) Thanks to:

Sandra Wolfe for suggesting and designing the invitations, with the help of her daughters Luann and Kristin! She found the beautiful gold paper, and she helped tie the programs.

Jean Hambleton for heading up the decoration committee and for purchasing and spearheading the creation of the floral centerpieces and the mugs. She led the table setting group. Jean also helped with the bookmarks and read in the skit "Look to the Future".

Marlene Maksel who designed, wrote, and oversaw the printing of the gold program. She ordered the mugs, and she wrote the skit for Playreading "Look to the Future". She also brought the AAUW scrapbooks for our luncheon display. And she edited the words to our new song "We are Gathered to Celebrate our Fiftieth."

Marilyn Tubbs for researching, producing and narrating the excellent power point display and for her outstanding PH N.E.W.S. coverage for all these months of 2007 and 2008.

Ginny Hargrave for the Community Involvement posters and for organizing the memorial flowers and for always thinking about and doing the publicity. Ginny also assisted by researching materials for the Power Point, laminating the bookmarks and filling the mugs.

Eileen Bordenave for hand-addressing all the envelopes for the invitations and for sitting at the name tag table.

Janet Sullivan for volunteering to do calligraphy for all of the name tags and for sitting at the name tag table and for encouraging many, many former members to attend and for getting and using daughter Kim's laminator for the bookmarks.

Mary Westgate for helping with Country Club arrangements and for working on the decorations committee and filling the mugs.

She, with her husband Ron, were responsible for selecting the music and working on the words for "We are Gathered to Celebrate our Fiftieth."

Muriel Fry for donating the banner: "Celebrate the Past – Look to the Future", for providing addresses of former members and presidents and AAUW officers, for lending us her mirror tiles, and for helping with decorations. She was also responsible for obtaining the beautiful and delicious anniversary cake.

Diane Gartner for planning the decorations and wrapping the floral centerpieces and filling the mugs.

Kathy Searles for tying the program, wrapping the floral centerpieces, and sitting at the name tag table.

Kay Ernst for her pictures of branch members and for writing the Events of 1957 quiz for the In Indelible Ink section.

Gayle Garrison for accompanying the song on the piano and for reading in the skit "Look to the Future".

Bea Ball for tying and assisting with the invitations and helping with the centerpieces and the mugs.

Kit Hein for issuing special invitations to teachers and spreading the word about our luncheon.

Shelley Jacobson for suggesting the Contra Costa Country Club and for sponsoring us there.

Susi Weight for reading in the skit "Look to the Future".

Maxine Walden for reading in the skit "Look to the Future".

Ish Mendonsa for assisting with the Power Point presentation.

Judy Onopchenko for keeping the 50th Anniversary theme in our programs this year.

Also thanks to the **Books Section** for the laminated book marks and to **Playreading** for the skit and to **III** for the Events of 1957 quiz. Thanks to the following other Branch members for their help.

Gretel Holit for the 50th Anniversary decorations in September and December.

Suzanne Salter for leading the famous song and for handling our check deposits and paying our bills.

Marti Martin for designing and printing the bookmarks from the Books Section.

And finally ... thanks to all who attended our elegant, gala event. *Margi Alkire, Event Chair*

Community

The Luncheon is over and I must say it was a great success. Also, I was so pleased that the community as a whole supported us ~ it showed - with the proclamation from the City and then the Recreation and Park Dist, the presence of the City Manager and the Council members. We have until June to get ready for the next event with the Chamber & the JFK University mixer on June 18th.



We will need some help at that time and the month before we will get together to finalize the whole event. We are planning on giving away some baskets of mugs and local coffee etc. and for this we will need YOUR help.

Thanks in advance.

Check the calendar below for the next Chamber mixer date.

Ginny Hargrave, Chair

March 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | | | | |
|---|--|-----|---|--|-----|--|--|--|---|----|
| | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 2 | Evening Bridge 7:00 pm @ Lola Hammons' | 3 | 4 | Morning Books 10:00 am @ Gayle Garrison's | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | |
| 9 | Daylight Savings Time Bergins | 10 | 11 | In Indelible Ink 10:00 am @ @ Suzanne Mesetz's AAUW Board mtg 7:15 pm @ Suzanne Salter's | 12 | 13 | 14 | Genealogy 10:00 am LDS Church Concord | 15 | |
| 16 |  St. Patrick's Day | 17 | Playreading 10:00 am @ Marilyn Tubbs' | 18 | 19 | Spring Begins | Nimble Fingers 10:30 am @ Judi Hamberg's | 20 | 21 | 22 |
|  | Evening Books 7:00 pm @ Gretel Holit's | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | Matinee Idol Contact Marlene Maksel for info | 27 | 28 | Sisters in Crime 7:00 pm @ Hillcrest Church | 29 |
| Frugal Foodies 6:00 pm @ Delamonti's PH | 30 | 31 | Wednesday, March 12, 2008 Chamber Mixer/Joint mixer with Lafayette CoC @ Paul Mitchell - The School, Crescent Drive, PH @ 5:30 pm | | | | | | | |



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Membership – AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. AAUW is open to all graduates of two year accredited colleges with AA degrees and/or accredited four year colleges or universities. In principle and practice AAUW values and supports diversity. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.