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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Spring and to enjoying the early signs of rejuvenation. Though the planet remains under stress on many levels, we are also able to experience the other side of the pendulum, the beauty of the sprouts and buddings, the heroic actions of many in response to the humanitarian and political crises and, hopefully, a renewed appreciation of our sacred resources.

The Women's History Gala was a success again this year as we all adjusted to many changes necessary for assuring we have a safe in-person gathering, the first in a long time! Those who could not attend may have heard about it from folks who attended. It seemed to get great "reviews". You can read a more detailed account by Val and see some pictures that follow in this newsletter, and soon to be on our website Ukiah-Ca.aauw.net.

A reminder of our next Program meeting on Tuesday, April 19 at 6:30 at the SAC. This subject, Women and Money will probably be very popular and the speakers well versed on the subject! It is free, as our programs always are, and guests are certainly welcome. See the yearbook for details—and you will probably hear from our Program Chair, Janet Chaniot by phone or e-mail as well. The Accolades presentation on April 27 is upcoming. See Mary Ann's column on page 6 for the details. Please note an update for the Tech Trek program from Kristana Arp on page 7.

I am in the process of finding a caterer for our Spring Dinner at Rivino Winery on May 10. We all enjoyed the venue and program so much last year that I am excited and looking forward to another beautiful event overlooking the mountains and vineyard under the big tent, socializing, perhaps some music, and maybe even introducing new board members. That last comment is really up to you coming forward with a willingness to be more active. I would like a co-President, Janet needs someone for Programs and we need a Refreshment Chair. Please e-mail me with your interest! The jobs are fun and easy, and the existing board will mentor you.

(Continued on next page)

Also, when the requests for RSVP and menu selections go out for the Spring Dinner, please respond ASAP as time is seeming to go by faster each day.

Grateful for our members,

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CHILDCARE: AN OVERDUE AND CRITICAL INVESTMENT

AAUW California Public Policy Committee

“It’s past time that we treat childcare as what it is—an element whose contribution to economic growth is as essential as infrastructure or energy ... and the single most important thing we can do to build a stronger economy over the next several decades,” says Janet Yellen, the former Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank and now Secretary of the Treasury.

The state of U.S. childcare is deplorable compared with other developed nations, especially with respect to affordability. This fact has been brought home to us ever more vividly during the current pandemic. Women, who still bear the majority of childcaring, have left the workforce in the millions due to the absence of basic childcare services and the cost associated with it.

Here are some sobering statistics:

1. 56% of married families with children under six consist of households where both parents work
2. The employment rate for single mothers raising a young child is 65%; it’s 83% for single fathers who maintain custody
3. The average American family with at least one child under 5 uses 13% of their income to pay for childcare
4. Less than 20% of children eligible for a low-income federal assistance program are getting the funding
5. 50% of Americans live in childcare “deserts” or areas where there are three children per every childcare opening
6. In 24 states the average cost for infant full-time daycare exceeds the average cost of rent
7. 97% of childcare providers are women, who are disproportionately women of color, making less than a living wage with no guaranteed benefits. In the US, the mean hourly wage for childcare workers is \$12.88, nearly \$3.00 less per hour than parking lot attendants, and \$5.00 less per hour than dog groomers.



8. This is a textbook example of a broken market, whereby the benefits of providing a service (in this case childcare) are not included in its overall value. Are our children really less important than our cars and dogs?

The consequences of not investing in quality childcare should have most Americans demanding action from their government leaders. Neglecting the care of young children is detrimental to their physical and mental wellbeing; it reduces productivity in the workforce; leads to lost wages and reduced retirement benefits for parents; it adds to the downward pressure on childcare workers, which in turn, impacts the quality and stability of childcare; and restricts future educational opportunities for family members.

There is hope on the horizon! The Build Back Better Act, now awaiting action by the Senate would provide universal preschool with high-quality childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds; increase wages for early childhood educators; upgrade existing childcare facilities, especially in high-need areas; and provide a sliding scale whereby parents would pay a reasonable percentage of their overall income to childcare costs.

Whether the legislation is included in the Reconciliation bill or taken up as a stand-alone bill, it deserves passage and your support. Childcare relief remains the top priority of AAUW California this year. Please be sure to contact your Senator and let them know of your AAUW membership and your commitment to ensuring our Nation's future.

AAUW is calling on the 117th Congress to ensure that a permanent paid leave program, childcare funding and the Child Tax Credit are included in the budget reconciliation process.

Val Muchowski
Public Policy Chair

WOMEN'S HISTORY CELEBRATION

AAUW-Ukiah with the Mendocino Women's Political Coalition (MWPC) presented the 38th Annual Women's History Gala Celebration on Sunday, March 20, which was a sold-out event. Thank you to all who participated, donated and brought savory goodies to share.

We honored three Mendocino County Women who embody the 2022 National Women's History Month theme, "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope". Representing diverse backgrounds and each making her mark in a different field were: Shirley Matilton-Feather, Ukiah; Cynthia Savage, Willits; and Camille Schraeder, Potter Valley. Through their inspiring speeches, the 2022 Honorees encouraged women and girls to chart their own paths of healing and hope.



The featured speaker was Malia Cohen, Chair of the CA State Board of Equalization and Candidate for California Controller. Cohen stimulated the audience with the importance of the political process and women's leadership roles. Georgina Marie Guardado, Lake County Poet Laureate, 2020-2024 the first Mexican-American to serve in this role, presented her compelling poetry.

Starting the program was piano music of Elizabeth MacDougall. The high-energy Raging Grannies regaled and inspired with their creative songs for peace and justice. In addition to serving as MC and Auctioneer, Wendy DeWitt, the Queen of Boogie Woogie, enliven folks with her piano tunes.



Val Muchowski

LOBBY “DAY” IS NOW LOBBY “WEEK”!

Mark your calendars for April 11 through April 15.

The time is fast approaching to spread the word about our priority bills to our state representatives, and once again we are enlisting the help of our branch members. This year we are introducing “Lobby Week” in place of Lobby Day. We will be arranging meetings for members with their state representatives in their district offices the week of April 11-15, while they are home on spring break. The idea is to get the impact of in-person meetings (where possible) without the cost of travel to Sacramento.

We sent an e-mail to all members fully explaining the process, but we are calling on branch leaders to encourage their members to participate and to lead by example by being the first to register.

If you are interested in participating in Lobby Week 2022, please contact Val Muchowski at (707) 234-9000 or e-mail vjmuchowski@com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

April 7 – Mandatory webinar for Lobby Week

April 11-15 – Lobby Week

PROGRAM NOTES

by Janet Chaniot

“Follow the Money” is the theme of the AAUW Ukiah program on April 19, 6:30 p.m., at The Saturday Afternoon Club.

Mary Anne Petrillo, CEO of the West Business Development Center, will moderate a discussion of the 30-year history of the Center supporting women as they face the challenges and opportunities of accessing equitable and just compensation for the work they do to support themselves and their families. She and several business women will share their experiences and answer questions from AAUW Ukiah members, their guests, and other interested members of the community.

The discussion will address such questions as “Are women, locally and in the wider world, able to claim their share of compensation for the work they do? What factors have helped or hindered their efforts? And what can be done now, and in the future, to close the gap between women and men.” To “Follow the Money” in order to assure that men and women have equal opportunities and compensation for the work they do is of utmost importance.

Be sure to mark the date on your calendar and please call or e-mail (see below) to be added to the list of those who will be part of this valuable and informative discussion.

It should also be noted that the Mendocino College/AAUW Ukiah Student Club will become a reality in April when information will be posted on both our websites. Students will be invited to join and to attend our AAUW Ukiah program on April 19.

Founding members will have a chance to meet and exchange introductions with AAUW Ukiah members and their guests. They will also become informed about the many opportunities available to them through their membership. For the past 140 years, AAUW has supported and advanced women’s issues locally, statewide and nationally offering scholarships, conferences and, for the past years of the pandemic, webinars.

It promises to be an exciting night, and we invite all AAUW Ukiah members, guests, and others to attend. Please let us know by responding to:

Janet Chaniot
972-6722
kiks@pacific

ACCOLADES AWARDS PRESENTATION

Ukiah High School Library – Wednesday, April 27 at 2:40 p.m.

We will be presenting five Ukiah High School girls with Accolades for Excellence awards on April 27. The girls, who were nominated by their teachers for their academic and personal efforts and achievements, are Audrey Anderson, nominated by Rose Easterbrook; Airiana Adams, nominated by Dianne Bruns; Katya Galvez, nominated by Angela McClure; Alexis Alexander, nominated by Jen Julius; and Allison Reedy, nominated by Patty Halpin.

Rather than making the presentations at a lunch as we have done in previous years, we will present these awards, including \$100 stipends, at a ceremony in the library on the Ukiah High School campus on Wednesday, April 27, at 2:40 p.m.

Please join us to honor and to meet and greet these outstanding girls, as well as their nominating teachers. Our Accolades presentation is always fun and inspiring and highlights our branch's focus on local education. You will also meet our new Ukiah High School liaison, Jessica Lee.

Note the start time (15 minutes past final bell) and plan to arrive at the campus in time to reach the library by 2:40 p.m. Hope to see you there! For planning purposes, please respond to Mary Ann Villwock, mavesq@gmail.com, if you plan to attend.

BOOKMARKS

by Katie Gibbs

The next book is *The Island of the Missing Trees*, a novel by British/Turkish author Elif Shafak. Set in Cyprus, with the conflict between Turks and Greeks, it is a love story from each culture told by both a narrator and a fig tree.

Future books we'd like to read:

Origin by Jennifer Raff, history of the origin of indigenous peoples in America.

South to America by Imani Perry, understanding our history through that of the Southern US.

Thank You Mr. Nixon by Gish Jen, understanding cultural differences with Chinese.

The Ministry for the Future by Kim Stanley Robinson, a more positive of the future in science fiction.

The next meeting is Thursday, April 21 at 2:00 p.m. at Katie's, 4561 Eastside Calpella Road, Ukiah. 707 228-6143.

TECH TREK UPDATE

by Kristana Arp, Ukiah Tech Trek Chair

The Ukiah AAUW Tech Trek Committee decided not to participate in Tech Trek this year because it was unclear if California AAUW would be able to hold in person Tech Trek camps this summer. Plus, the members of the committee were experiencing a lot of personal challenges at the time. However, we have told the California Tech Trek Director that we will be ready and able to find local girls to attend these wonderful camps next year in 2023. We welcome any members who want to join the committee to make this possible.

Please note that *Valley View* advertising is available to local businesses for \$25/year starting this month. Just scan or send a business card and a check to Kyle Mayers at P. O. Box 1626, Ukiah, CA 9482



Wil Gonzalez, AIFD



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