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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Once Again. Hope you are still enjoying this beautiful Fall weather and generous harvest time. However, as usual, nothing is going on as usual. It seems to be a time calling for flexibility and tolerance toward the many unexpected occurrences.

For our first program of the year on Thursday, November 9, we will be returning to the Saturday Afternoon Clubhouse, thanks to owner Rocio Ortega, and enjoying that lovely space to welcome guest speaker Janet Denninger, the Executive Director of the Ukiah Hospice Program.

Unfortunately, there are two different, and both incorrect times for this program mentioned in the yearbook. The correct time is 6:30 p.m.

Janet Denninger wrote to us after recognizing that many people are not aware of the wide variety of kinds of helpful care and information that their program offers to the community. As many of us move toward the more elderly years, a period of time generally deemed noteworthy, and are confronting the possibility, and often the reality of increased limitations on many levels, it is very supportive and comforting to learn about helpful options available to us for support and assistance with these potential challenges.

Janet Denninger



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In order to reach out beyond our membership, Katarzyna Rolzinski is writing an article for the *Ukiah Daily Journal* to let the community know about this important free program. So please mark your calendars and invite your friends, family and neighbors to attend.

It would help our planning for setting up and refreshments to know of your intent to attend and how many of your guests will be coming as well. RSVP to aauwukiahbranch@gmail.com or call me at 707- 462-5747 or text Kyle at 707 331-0046.

We are moving forward in identifying potential board members to fill the positions of Treasurer, Program Chair and Membership. Please note that we are also looking for committee members for the Scholarship Program, the College Student Club and the Phone Tree (we are thankful to Janet Chanot who has agreed to be the Chair of the Phone Tree Committee). Janet will be looking for committee members—an opportunity to volunteer help that can be done while being at home. Things are definitely going in the right direction!

The Manual describing the work and time obligations for all of these positions is being updated as well as our By-laws. The dates for the meeting to work on these projects will be forthcoming in an e-mail and we will contact you for input when necessary.

We had a very successful fundraiser for Tech Trek – Kyle’s report on this follows - and so we will probably be able to send 5 girls to the camp this next year. A big thank you to all who donated, we can certainly congratulate ourselves. February will be the time for our Fundraiser for the College Scholarships—we will offer three scholarships and still need about \$1,000 more to complete our commitment. Any fundraising ideas?

Coming up on Thursday, November 2, *100 Women Strong* will be voting to donate \$10,000 or more to a local non- profit organization. Thanks to our Tech Trek Committee an application was submitted and we were fortunate enough to have our Tech Trek Program chosen to be a Presenter and compete for the donations of these generous women. Our fabulous member Gretel Palmerin, a Ukiah High Math Teacher, has agreed to represent us as the Speaker. She is being coached by members of the Tech Trek Committee, Kristana Arp, Nancy Laybourn, Julie Bawcom, and Norma Marks. We are very excited by this possibility.

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On another very positive note, we have a growing and enthusiastic Mendocino College Student AAUW Club. Norma Marks, Janet Chaniot, Lisa Baker and I set up and attended the AAUW table at the college Club Day October 24th. There were people to help us with tables and chairs, canopies and tablecloths from the Mendocino College staff and our table was attractive with balloons and refreshments provided by Norma, as well as offering lots of information about our mission and about joining our Ukiah chapter. We signed up 15 students who showed interest and Lisa the club President and Julie Finnegan, our staff student advisor, plan to contact them and our five or six current club members about the first AAUW Student Club meeting, most likely in the next couple of weeks.

An additional encouraging sign is that six new women have either rejoined or signed up to be members of AAUW Ukiah branch. A big welcome to them! Note that Kyle has updated the Contact List for your yearbook and has already sent this information to you in an e-mail.

This is a good moment to end this column—news on an upswing. I am grateful to see the increase in enthusiasm from the membership.

That mysterious Daylight Saving Time is coming next week, Sunday, November 5. Somehow I can't fathom how it is we are saving daylight time!

Be well

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TECH TREK TEA PARTY DRIVE

We have had a wonderful response to the Tea Party Fundraiser for our Tech Trek program for Summer of 2024. Irma Turner did a great job organizing this drive. To date we have received \$3,363.00 bringing our Tech Trek account to just under \$5,800. It was just announced that the tuition per student is increasing to \$1300, so we are grateful for everyone's response. We still appear to be on track to send five girls who will be entering 8th grade to the fabulous STEM Camp next summer!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to our many generous donors, and our gratitude as well to Kristana Arp, who chairs the Tech Trek Committee, and her group of volunteers who all help to make this possible. If you haven't returned your envelopes yet, it is never too late! Checks can be mailed to:

AAUW Ukiah Tech Trek
P.O. Box 1626
Ukiah, CA 95482

If you prefer to make electronic payments, we also have a PayPal account. You can use the QR Code below any time you want to send us money—for dues, member dinners, donations, etc. Just leave a comment so we know what it is for. . . .



Ky Mayers, Treasurer

Public Policy

Teaching has rich history of providing a career pathway for women.

Education is one of the most female-dominated professions. Around 75% of K–12 teachers and 90% of elementary school teachers are women. Teaching has a legacy as a profession that has been viewed as a career pathway for women.

Teaching is also one of the lowest paid professions relative to the amount of education and training required for the position.

Currently, there is a major shortage of K-12 teachers in the United States (estimated shortage of 110,000 teachers). Low pay is one of the major reasons why individuals are avoiding or leaving teaching, along with insufficient funding for education overall and lack of continued professional development.

The teacher shortage has emerged in just the past five years. There was a marked shift in teaching during the 2008 recession, when many states cut the numbers of teachers, teacher salaries and/or education funding. Numerous analyses have shown that funding to support teaching and education has not been restored since the recession and also has been tied to generating support for tax cuts or other spending in states.

Having sufficient numbers of well-trained teachers is essential for educating students and for having a well-prepared workforce for the future. The average teacher starting salary was \$39,249 in 2017–18. In 300 districts, the starting salary was below \$30,000, and in 1,025 districts, even the highest paid teachers earned below \$50,000.

The Economic Policy Institute calculated the teacher "wage penalty." They found that public school teachers are paid 4% less in wages and compensation than other college-educated workers. Average weekly wages of public school teachers decreased \$21 from 1996 to 2018 (adjusting for inflation).

Teachers in high-poverty schools make about 10% less than teachers in low-poverty schools.

More than half of teachers report taking on additional work to supplement their income—with average earnings between \$4,000 and \$4,300. That reduces family and personal time.

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There has been a drop of more than 15% in education degrees awarded and a 27.4% drop in teacher preparation program completions between 2008–09 and 2015–19. Around 13% of teachers also leave the profession annually.

A number of teachers report lack of support or training, particularly those teaching in high-poverty schools as a reason for leaving the profession.

A quarter of female teachers have reported experiencing sexual harassment on the job.

Val Muchowski

AAUW BOOKMARKERS

We will meet Tuesday, November 14 at 2:00 p.m. at my house, 4561 Eastside Calpella Road, Ukiah.

The book for November is *The Sun Walks Down* by Fiona McFarlane, 2023 Farrar, Straus and Giroux, a story of and from Australia.

New members are welcome. Call 707 228-6143 if you'd like to join us.

Katie Gibbs

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on November 13 at 1:00 p.m. Anyone interested in attending needs to e-mail Sharon at sharonjeanmarshall@gmail.com for the location still to be determined.

NEW MASCOT

Meet Allie Bay—AAUW People's Choice Mascot 2023-2024



Allie Bay – Official Mascot 2024

Licorice the goat was deemed the Patron Mascot since she received the highest amount in donations whereas Allie Bay was the People's Choice Mascot as she had the largest number of people voting for her.