



**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
CLAYTON BRANCH AAUW
March 2019 NEWSLETTER**

Rosemary Harwood, Newsletter Editor

2018-2019, Edition vi

The Goddess: Images of Power

A Docent Lecture from the
Asian Art Museum of San Francisco



Explore the myriad and fascinating depictions of female deities throughout Asia. Goddesses play an important and prominent role in all the Asian religions. From fertile earth maidens, to nurturing mothers, from wrathful avengers, to wise advisors, these deities provide for their supplicants and followers.

Monday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.
Clayton Community Library, Hoyer Hall
6125 Clayton Road, Clayton

AAUW CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Diana Bauer & Joan Chesterman

We had a great turnout for the annual Funds Luncheon on February 23rd at Concord United Methodist Church (CUMC). In spite of all the rain and wind our members brought gorgeous white, pink and red camellias to decorate the white draped tables. (Some of them appeared on the altar the CUMC's nine o'clock service the following morning :>). We appreciate CUMC's trustees letting us use the large social hall for the same facility use fee we customarily paid for use of the smaller one. (It's under contract to another group every Saturday.) CUMC's Sandy Blazer, on her way between a Winter Nights homeless shelter meeting and a theater date, set up a microphone for us using that room's sound system. Somebody even turned on the heat early so it was nice and toasty when we arrived. It took a little reorganizing, but worked out fine. The leftover coffee even recycled to Saturday Evening Bridge!

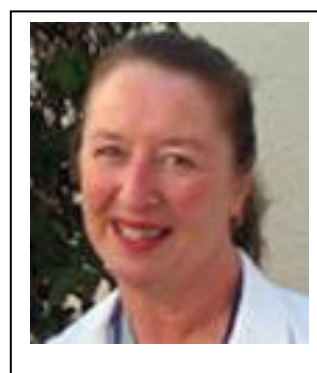
Thanks to the technical ability of a Concord Branch member who's the IT Specialist at Carondolet High School we were able to get the speaker's PowerPoint working including sound. Enough donations were made for Tech Trek to meet our obligation and very generous donations were received for AAUW Funds.

Interesting fact: in 2018 California Branches donated \$471,581 to AAUW Fund. Thanks so much for your generosity. Guess I should mention that Concord Branch's salads and our desserts were wonderful, too.

We're still planning to ask for local scholarship contributions to be brought to a **Scholarship Potluck** to be held on **Monday, April 29th at 6 PM at Diana Bauer's home** (as was our "Non-Spaghetti Feed" potluck last year). Save the Date and stay tuned for details next month.

It's not too late to register to attend the AAUW California Annual Meeting, April 6th at The Handlery Hotel, San Diego. You can do this from the AAUW California website before the April 3rd deadline.

Don't miss our March meeting and program at the library described elsewhere in this issue! Hope to see you there.



Named Gift Honoree

It always feels good to be able to honor someone for doing an outstanding job. For each \$750 presented by the Branch to AAUW Funds we are entitled to a Named Gift Honoree and this year we chose Karen Hansen-Smith, our Program Chairman and the person who keeps things running smoothly as librarian at our beloved Clayton Community Library. Since Karen couldn't make the Funds Lunch we were able to keep quiet about it so that we could make a surprise presentation at our Board Meeting on March 4, 2019. Co-sponsoring some of Karen's library programs created a win-win situation.



Imagine an America Without a Pay Gap

It is common knowledge that a woman in the United States makes 80 cents per dollar made by a man of similar qualifications. The pay gap is worse for women of color. In an era when women make up nearly 50% of the workforce, this pay gap burdens individual family finances and the economy. A recent study estimated the impact on society if the pay gap was corrected.

How would closing the pay gap be expected to impact families?

- 60% of working women and 66% single working mothers would see an increase in their pay
- Poverty rates for working women would drop by half from 8% to 3.8%
- Poverty rates for single working mothers would drop from 28.9% to 14.5%

How would the US economy benefit?

- Closing the pay gap would increase gross domestic product an estimated \$500 million, roughly 2.6% of the GDP of our entire nation
- The increase in women's earnings would be roughly 16 times what federal and state governments spent in 2015 for temporary assistance to needy families

The pay gap adversely impacts American families. Closing it would raise many out of poverty and reduce the need for public assistance. The question to ask our elected officials is not whether we as a society can afford to pay men and women the same income for the same work. The question is, how can we afford not to?

Archana Maniar

Source: The Impact of Equal Pay on Poverty and the Economy 2017, Institute of Women's Policy Research

March is Women's History Month

American Women in Science - 1950s+

By Karen Jackle, AAUWCA Public Policy Comm.

Many women in recent history are only recognized in their field as notable, here are a few.

Astronaut Judith A Resnik As the 2nd woman to fly in space, her career ended with the explosion of the Challenger in 1986. She said she was the only girl in her mathematics class since calculus in her high school senior year. Her PHD in Engineering was put to good use in 1984 in the earth orbiter, Discovery where she operated the robotic arm (RMS) Remote Manipulator System.

Climatology Tamarak Ledley Known for her research on the role of the Polar Regions in climate change, she worked to bring science to the schools, presenting information to elementary school children as well as university students.

Genetics Elaine Fuchs Her research on human skin genes, how they grow and produce keratin proteins led to findings on skin diseases caused by malfunction of the growth process. She is a molecular and cell biologist and geneticist with PHD in Chemistry.

Neurophysiology Candace Duenda Rent Chemical receptors: where molecules of a drug or natural chemical can be used. She did research with her major professor and was co-discoverer with him; it lead to discovery of endorphins, but he got the credit with the Laskey Prize, not her.

Nutrition Jane Ellen Brody She writes magazine articles and books for general public to reflect the science of nutrition. She considers herself a science writer, not a scientist although she has a degree in biochemistry. She urges her readers to adopt a diet rich in complex carbohydrates, moderate protein and lower intake of fat, sugar and salt.

Toxicologist Elizabeth A Weisburger Her research on the mechanisms by which environmental chemicals cause mutations and cancer is the field known as chemical carcinogenesis. She originally wanted to go into biology until a professor told her she had to draw well to work in that field so she changed her major to chemistry.

Women in science are still sometimes overlooked when they are partnered with a male in research, but the results of their research are not singular and often lead to additional new information which, when a scientist is passionate about what they do, brings knowledge in new directions.

Source: American Women in Science, 1950 to the Present, by Martha J. Bailey, There were 78 categories with 1-5 women in each, and these above are just a few random highlights. Initially, a children's book about women in science initiated research that resulted in the above choices.

Afternoon Book Group Selections

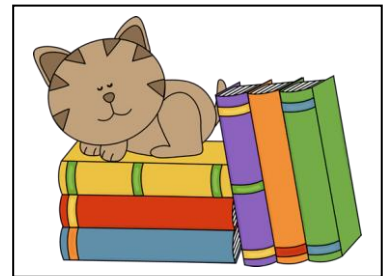
The Book Group will meet at 2:30 pm at Priscilla's on:

March 27th: *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman.

April 24th: *Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou

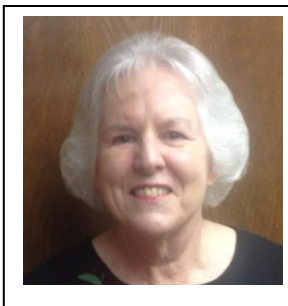
May 22nd: *The Innocents Abroad* by Mark Twain.

Jill Day 672-0895 Jillday@pacbell.net



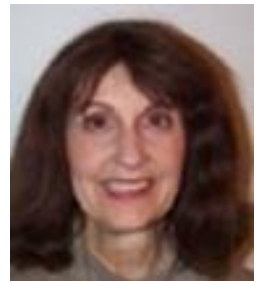
Ladies Evening Bridge meets at 7:00 pm on the second Wednesday of the month.

Contact Mary Ann Hayes at 672-4391 for more details.



Saturday Night Bridge meets on the fourth Saturday at 7:00 pm.

For more information, contact Carol Wolfe at 672-13103.



Adela Oldford

PLEASE contact me at
diamondadel@gmail.com

NOT THE Comcast Address

Thanks
Adela

FIELD TRIPS

Call or email contact persons listed with the trip for more information.

- March 22: TULIP BLOOM TOUR of MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY
Lunch OYO
Contact person is Margaret Bradford
(925) 451-8558
- May 30: ALADDIN the MUSICAL
Show Tickets \$74 Lunch OYO
Amtrak Train Ticket to Sacramento to follow

If interested in any of these trips, please contact Adela Oldford immediately for more details.

(925) 360-6305
diamondadel@gmail.com

Extend the value of your AAUW membership! Visit the [Contra Costa County Interbranch Council website](#) to see upcoming AAUW activities in nearby branches.