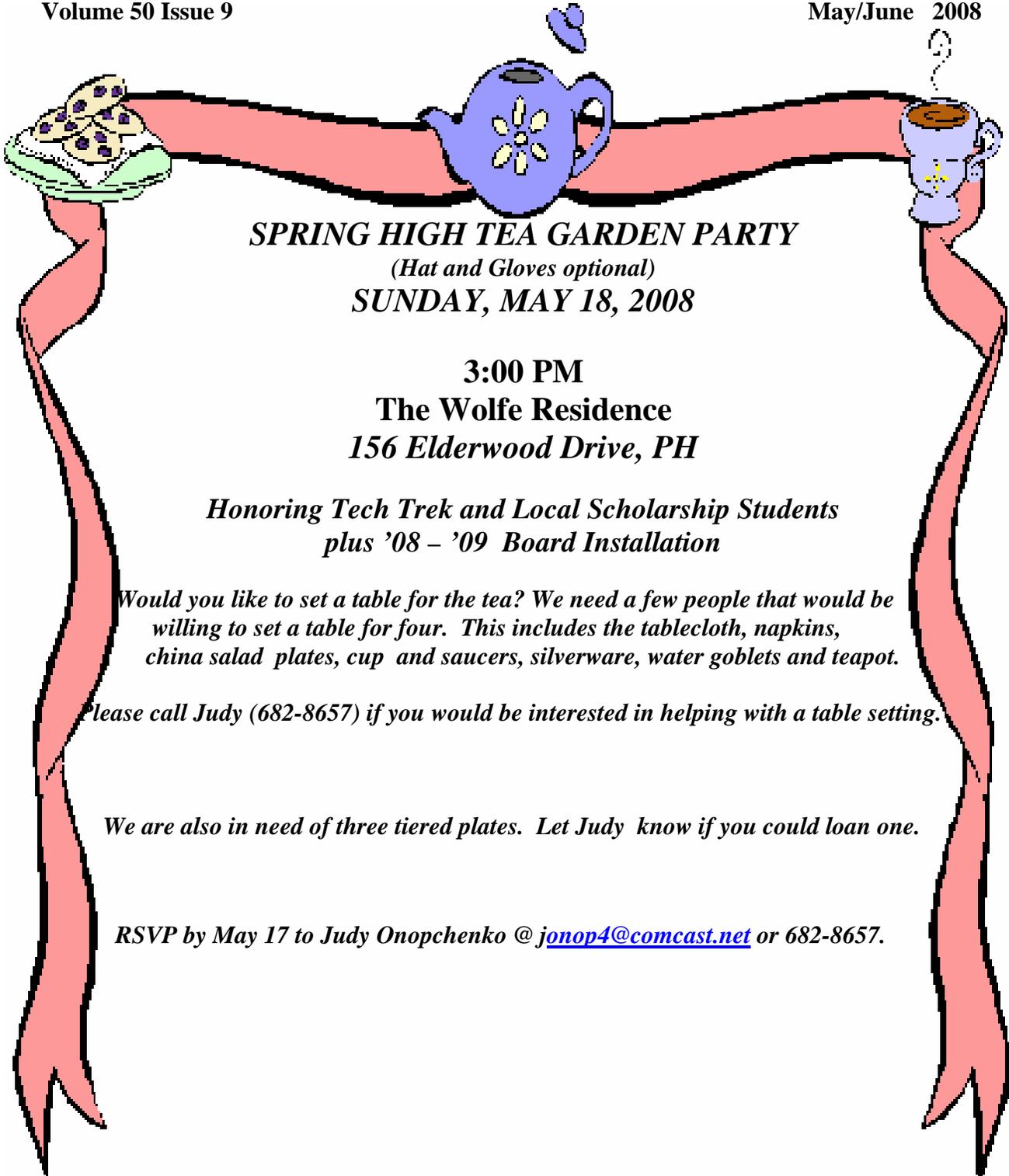




**Pleasant Hill Branch**  
**N.E.W.S.**  
**Now/Events/Women/Success**

Volume 50 Issue 9

May/June 2008



***SPRING HIGH TEA GARDEN PARTY***

*(Hat and Gloves optional)*

***SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2008***

**3:00 PM**

**The Wolfe Residence**  
***156 Elderwood Drive, PH***

***Honoring Tech Trek and Local Scholarship Students***  
***plus '08 - '09 Board Installation***

*Would you like to set a table for the tea? We need a few people that would be willing to set a table for four. This includes the tablecloth, napkins, china salad plates, cup and saucers, silverware, water goblets and teapot.*

*Please call Judy (682-8657) if you would be interested in helping with a table setting.*

*We are also in need of three tiered plates. Let Judy know if you could loan one.*

***RSVP by May 17 to Judy Onopchenko @ [jonop4@comcast.net](mailto:jonop4@comcast.net) or 682-8657.***

**2007 -2008 Board**

**President's Team:**

**Kay Ernst**

**Marlene Maksel**

**Vice President Program:**

**Judy Onopchenko**

**Vice President's – EF:**

**Marlene DeLaurenti**

**Sandy Wolfe**

**Vice President's Membership:**

**Diane Gartner**

**Shelley Jacobson**

**Vice President – LAF:**

**Gayle Garrison**

**Secretary:**

**Ish Mendonsa**

**Treasurer:**

**Suzanne Salter**

**Newsletter Editor:**

**Marilyn Tubbs**

Pleasant Hill AAUW N.E.W.S.

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Lorilei Self

Copy deadline for the

Ju.y/August N.E.W.S. is due on

June 15, 2008

Please send copy to Marilyn

Tubbs

**Pleasant Hill AAUW**

**Web Site**

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

**PITHY PRESIDENTIAL PROSE**

*Co President's Kay Ernst & Marlene Maksel*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

With this May-June issue of the N.E.W.S., the present 2007-2008 elected officers and appointed officers are reaching the end of their term. In retrospect, Kay and I feel that this has been a good year! We want to thank all of the officers who stepped up and were willing to fill positions and do the work needed to carry the branch and its programs forward.

Our EF VP's did an excellent job in raising money to further the education of women seeking graduate degrees ~ our contribution for 2007-08 was \$4,000. A very healthy sum for a branch of our size. Thank you, Marlene DeLaurenti and Sandy Wolfe!

Our LAF event will happen just as this issue is being published, but well after my deadline. The Bridge/Dessert party will, I know, bring in needed monies to help those women who have been harassed or discriminated against in any fashion while on the job. Kudos to Gayle Garrison!

Because we think that starting earlier is better than later, our Tech Trek program for rising 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls is very important to the branch. This summer, again, we will be sending 3 girls to math/science camp at Mills College. What an experience for them ~ one they will long remember, as our former attendees have testified. Great job by Kit Hein!

Our local Scholarship program provides graduates from DVC and College Park High, who are going on to a 4-year college, the needed recognition for their hard work, as well as a \$500 stipend.

The support for this program from our branch membership has been outstanding. Many thanks to Susi Weight!

I would like to thank each member of the board, but space does not permit me to name everyone. You have ALL done a tremendous job. Thank you EVERY ONE! *Marlene*



**Please clip this statement  
and remit the amount to**

**Diane Gartner**

**28 Rolling Green Circle**

**Pleasant Hill, CA 94523**

**Dues Statement**

**July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009**

<b>Association</b>	<b>\$49.00</b>
<b>State</b>	<b>\$16.00</b>
<b>Branch</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$83.00</b>

**Barbara Newacheck**

**Memorial Fund (optional)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Remitted** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment is due now.**

*Paying dues prior to June 30<sup>th</sup> assures your name will be included in the PHAAUW '08-'09 Directory*

**Questions? Please phone Diane (798-0798)**

**Pleasant Hill**  
**AAUW**  
*(American Association of University Women)*



**Celebrating**

**50**  
**Years**  
*in Pleasant Hill*

*Invites you to a joint celebration with*  
*JFK University at the*  
*Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce Mixer*  
*on*  
*Wednesday, June 18, 2008 5:30 pm*

*Where: JFK University Campus*  
*100 Ellinwood Way*  
*Pleasant Hill, CA*

*Mission: AAUW advances the equity of women and girls through*

- *Advocacy*
- *Education*
- *Research*

*Raised over \$250,000 for international fellowships for women*  
*Donated \$50,000 to local scholarships in the last 10 years*

**Chamber Mixer Host Info:**

June 18, 2008 is the finale for our fiftieth year celebration with a Chamber Mixer with JFK University in Pleasant Hill at 5:30pm. We will be a co-host and will be expected to provide the dessert and three baskets for the raffle at the end of the event. HOWEVER the most important item is that we show up for the evening en masse. We are and always have been a most viable asset to the city in giving of our time and support thru art, education and community service. We must continue to demonstrate our community ability by being a visible part of this Chamber Mixer. We thank you for your past assistance to the needs of the girls at Juvenile Hall last year and all the other contributions over these past two years.

We ask now that you help us fill at least three baskets for the drawing. We will start with cups from our luncheon and make coffee baskets. We will need half-pounds of deluxe coffee, some candies or sweets,

maybe small crossword puzzle books, napkins and a napkin ring or anything else one would like to find in a coffee time basket.

Please let me know and thanks again for past help. *Ginny*

**BOOK EXCHANGE**

This is your annual opportunity to join the BOOK EXCHANGE! Read up to 12 hardbacks published in 2008 for the cost of only one! You buy one book; then each month you receive a new selection from another member of the Exchange.

Please call Mary Hanlon @ 934-3528 with your selected title and author PRIOR to purchasing your book.

The calls have been coming in, so we have 2 Exchanges going and will work on a third. Don't miss out! (You can purchase 2 or 3 books to join all the Exchanges and double or triple your reading pleasure!)

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

**Moneymovers Investment Club**

will meet on Monday, May 12, 7:00 pm at UB, 2185 N. California Blvd, Ste 400, WC and June 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm @ Alvera Welsh's.



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MANAGER

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Pleasant Hill, Ca 94523  
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Fax:(925) 688-2328

e-mail:cybercopy@sbcglobal.net

**Interest Group Meetings:**

**May 2008**

**MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 am @ Marlene Maksel's. instead of Jean Hambleton's. We will be discussing Skylight Confessions by Alice Hoffman. Reviewers say this book has unforgettable characters as the story tells about three generations of a family haunted by love. This is sure to be an interesting discussion. Please contact Marlene if you're interested in being the reviewer of this book.

**IN INDELIBLE INK** will not meet in May.

**EVENING BOOKS** will not meet in May.

**MATINEE IDLE** will go to the movies on Thursday, May 22nd. We usually pick the movie at the beginning of that week, so please call Marlene if you are interested. We always have coffee (sometimes lunch if it is an early movie) after the movie to discuss it.

**EVENING BRIDGE** will meet Monday, May 5 2008 7:00 pm. @ Elizabeth DiPietro's.

**AAUW BOARD MEETING** will meet at Judy Onopchenko's @ 7:15 pm Wednesday, May 14, 2008.

**NIMBLE FINGERS** will meet on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am. @ Kathy Searles', PH.

**PLAYREADING** will not meet in May.

**FRUGAL FOODIES** will meet on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm at Taheri's, 299 Oak Rd WC. Restaurant is closed on Sunday's. Call Suzanne Mesetz for info.

**GENEAOLGY –**

**Saturday, May 24**, 10:00 a.m. there will be a class on "Putting Photos in PAF and Making Old Photos Look Like New." The instructor will be Jon Fitt. It is FREE. It will be at the LDS church, 3700 Concord Blvd., Family History Center (In the back of the church), Concord. *Kay*

**June 2008**

**MORNING BOOKS** will meet on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am @ Suzanne Rheingruber's for our "end of the year" potluck luncheon. We won't be discussing a book, but we might have a quiz!

Otherwise, it will be just a time to visit with friends. Food sign-ups will be available at the May meeting, or by calling Suzanne at 945-0347. In September we will be reading Ken Follett's The Pillars of the Earth. **INDELIBLE INK** will be having it's final meeting until September on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am at Marie Callendar's Restaurant. There is no assignment, so we invite all who are interested in coming to lunch. Please phone Marlene, before June 8<sup>th</sup>, so reservations can be made.

**EVENING BOOKS** will meet on Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6 pm at Paradise 33 Restaurant in Concord – across from the airport. We will be discussing Alan Brennert's Moloka'i. This novel is about the leper colony and how the inhabitants survive through the years. It is a wonderful story of heartbreak and perseverance. Please call Marlene before Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> so reservations can be made.

**MATINEE IDOL** will go to the movies on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. We will pick the movie at the beginning of that week, so please call Marlene if you are interested. We always have coffee after and a little discussion about the movie.

**EVENING BRIDGE** will meet on Monday, June 2, 2008. Place to be announced..

**NIMBLE FINGERS** will meet on Friday, June 20, 2008 10:30 am @ Margi Alkire's.

**PLAYREADING** will begin meeting on the third Tuesday in September. Plan to join us.

**FRUGAL FOODIES** will meet on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. 6 pm at Mama Mia's in Pacheco.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - 10am – 2pm for District training in Martinez.**

**Fee \$20/person will be paid by the branch.**

**Elected officers plus public policy chair are urged to attend. More info by email later.**

**Joint Board Pot Luck Dinner**

**Tuesday, June 3, 2008 6:00 pm**

**Hostess: Sandra Wolfe**

**156 Elderwood Drive, PH**

**2007-2008 Board hosts 2008-2009 Board**

**RSVP to Marlene (689-5439) for reservations & food assignments.**

**Bring experience notebooks to be exchanged with new board members.**

## **Report From Convention, '08**

**by Kit Hein**

### **It's All About the Mission**

With a lovely 3 ring binder, covered with a picture of 2 women walking down the breezeway of what I assume is Mission San Francisco Solano (in Sonoma), I entered my first meeting and could already feel the energy. Friday afternoon had been set aside for a presidents' gathering where we really heard "It's all about the Mission."

.....The AAUW California leadership expected us all to take every opportunity to participate, dialogue with each other, make new acquaintances, and actively be a part of the decision making process. Following that road, we went straight from the presidents' meeting to a Bylaws briefing. There was only one amendment, really just housekeeping, creating a transition to the new board structure. There seemed to be no contention to the amendment, but there was contention over the election. Members were concerned that there had been no vitas sent to the branches in advance to review and receive comments from the branches on how delegates should vote.

The rest of the evening was for dinner, business session one at which candidates were introduced and nominations were taken from the floor, then a meet and greet to get a chance to ask questions of individual candidates. Sixteen were to be elected and there were 17 candidates.

..... Saturday started with Charlotte Newhart, AAUW CA Public Policy Advocate, giving a synopsis of what's in front of the legislature right now and what AAUW is supporting. I have given all the information to our own Shirley Thompson who will keep you up-to-date. The one thing I remember is that AAUW CA is sponsoring a bill to reduce the lead in lipstick. Europe has outlawed lead in cosmetics for the past 20 years. Frightening.

..... On to the Saturday morning plenary with speakers from the California Commission on the Status of Women, the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, AARP, CA NOW, and the National Women's Political Caucus. As always, I sat in awe, trying to absorb as much as possible. The big things that come up, of course, deal with the huge % in all industries and the government who will be retiring soon. 60,000 in 2009 alone.

There are more and more older women, though, who are choosing to stay in the workforce. They want (and are getting) flexible scheduling and other perks for their knowledge and expertise.

.....The meat and potatoes of any convention are the workshops. With 5 to choose from each session, it was difficult for me to spread myself out. (Hint, hint for next year). I chose "Making the Mission Matter in Your Community" and you will all be hearing more about that in the near future.

Pleasant Hill N.E.W.S

Lunch was a very moving presentation by Paul Thein, Legal Advocacy Fund litigant, formerly of Feather River Community College.

And then on to another workshop. Keeping with my own theme, I went to TEAM: Together, Everyone Achieves the Mission. Besides the mission, we reviewed the value promise: "By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance."

Catherine Hill, AAUW Director of Research encouraged us to strengthen our lobbying efforts, use the research to spark discussions, and become a spokesperson for AAUW. She also was taking suggestions for more research, so if you have any ideas be sure to let us know.

.....All that was left was to listen to Ms. Leigh Henderson of the Leadership Training Room, encourage us to demonstrate the six key traits that are the foundation of effective leadership. And she is not talking about elected officers. She is talking about all members of AAUW – this means you! – and their leadership in their communities.

.....Sunday morning new officers were installed and we listened to Mary Perry, Deputy Director of Ed Source, give the key points to the state budget and how it is affecting education.

.....In keeping with the aging of our membership (or maybe because they have always been a big sponsor of AAUW), AARP had a full page ad on the back of the binder, promoting the website DividedWeFail.org. More action. More advocacy.

.....I hope all of you are gearing up for a very active, involved year with PH-AAUW. Your dues supported my trip to this convention and I expect each of you to make sure that I fulfill whatever expectations you when you pay those dues. But I can't do it alone. It is the responsibility of each of us to "*...advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research*" and to make the value promise to many more women and men who want to help further our mission as we make them a promise that by joining AAUW (they) belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance."

### **Remaining First Friday Forum**

#### **Speaker Series - FREE**

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church

1 pm Refreshments - 1:30 pm Speaker

**May 2, 2008**

**Cindy Siljestrom, Executive Director of Hospice of the East Bay, Hospice 101.**

**June 6, 2008**

**Jim Rosenthal**

***Peace Process in the Middle East***

## **Public Policy:**

### **California Budget Crisis**

The projected California budget deficit is 16 thousand million through the end of 2009, according to Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill.

AAUW has been a staunch supporter of education for 126 years. We have worked hard to build education budgets that reduce class size, increase accountability and improve performance.

No department, program or service will be spared in the proposals from Sacramento. Healthcare cuts will deny access to millions of working poor including children who attend school and may come when ill. The release of more than 20,000 inmates from state prisons may occur and 20% of state parks will close. Roads and bridges will not be upgraded.

AAUW California urges a reasoned well thought out approach to include:

- Protect the basic education and human services infrastructure.
- Maintain all health and safety standards.
- Insert provisions to ensure periodic review of programs, services and taxes/fees for redundancies & inefficiencies.
- Equitably distribute funding cuts.
- Seriously assess the options for tax and fee increases.
- Restructure the educational funding system. Establish an education commission charged to formulate and recommend measures to the legislature.

Write your state representatives and senators!

*Shirlee Thompson, Chair*

### **Local Scholarship Honorees**

Five local students have been selected to each receive a \$500.00 college scholarship from Pleasant Hill AAUW. Please attend the May High Tea to meet these outstanding young women. They will discuss their ideas about their future plans and include their college choices.

DVC student honorees include:

**Jamela Hughes, Sindy Rodriquez and Victoria Volkar**

College Park High School Seniors were **Allyson Davis and Elizabeth Stenger.**

The local scholarship committee wishes to thank each and every branch member who donated to our "Silent -Tea" event this year to make these scholarships available to our local graduates.

*Susi Weight, Chair, along with members Shelley Jacobson, Mary McGhee, Dana Matthews, Marlene Maksel, Jean Hambleton, Ginny Hargrave and Marilyn Tubbs.*

## **Tech Trek**

Once again the Tech Trek season is drawing to a close. It is for us, anyway. It's just beginning for the girls.

Please plan now to attend our May tea so you can meet our Tech Trek campers. The choices were difficult to make and I'm sure you will be very proud to be sponsors of **Michelle Vasques** from Sequoia Middle School and **Dakota Valdez** and **Amy Roaldson** from Pleasant Hill Middle School. All three girls are highly articulate, interested in the world around them, and ready to get the very most they can from this special experience.

Special thanks to all of the members, friends, and spouses who supported our program this year. Those of you who worked the Forty Niners' games, helped at the book sale, donated money and offered all around help with paperwork have, once again, demonstrated how we work toward the AAUW mission at the grass roots level. Special thanks to Muriel Fry for licking stamps and keeping me on track and to interviewers *extraordinaire*, Sandy Wolfe, Janet Sullivan and Kathy Wheeler.

*Kit Hein, Tech Trek Coordinator*



18 Monivea Pl  
Pleasant Hill, CA  
94523

**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.**