

## February Speaker Series

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

5:00 Social, 5:30 General Business and Spotlight Presentation

5:45 Speakers from *Family Life Center*



The speakers will be the staff from Family Life Center, a non-profit residential treatment center and school for youth with severe behavioral, emotional, and learning challenges, telling about a unique and highly successful system of educating and transforming the lives of troubled youth.

For over 30 years, Family Life Center has provided services for challenged students in two separate programs located in country settings in Petaluma, California. It provides students the opportunity to create a more positive adulthood by helping them to identify and transform their destructive patterns and by providing healthy, healing, and empowering adolescent experiences.

In the words of Susan Lemieux, founder and CEO: “As our students learn about themselves and develop insight into their thoughts, feelings and behavior, new opportunities for healing, relationships, and skill-development emerge. Even though they have the support and guidance of counselors, teachers, and other FLC staff, what will ultimately bring meaning and fulfillment into their lives is helping them to uncover their own internal resources. This means recognizing the strength and depth of core human values, such as love, compassion, joy, and equanimity and allowing these values to inform their decisions.

“For youth to learn and grow they need the adults in their lives to model what it means to make decisions from core values. On a daily basis, FLC staff and students aspire to put their values into action. This takes personal commitment and honest and direct feedback within our learning community. Through this process our students discover for themselves that they are remarkable and valuable human beings who have something precious to contribute to their families, friends, and the world.”

—Kim Kopp and Carol McKnight

*Don't forget the **impromptu dinner** afterwards! (See President's Message, page 2.)*

## President's Message

About forty turned out for our first Happy Hour in a winery. Kudos to **Carol Novak** for



securing Hudson Street's facility and hosting such an enjoyable event. Carol added festive lights and balloons to the wine barrels in

the background. The table of yummy appetizers completed the ambiance. Don't miss out on the next Happy Hour in March. Check the date on the Events tab of our website. There's room for all.

Speaker series co-chairs **Carol McKnight** and **Kim Kopp** scored a winner in inviting Riverkeeper Don McEnhill. His engaging talk and slide show provided "mission based programming," consistent with our focus on education. We learned about the ecology of the river and steps the Russian Riverkeeper non-profit organization and local volunteers have taken to maintain it as clean water and a safe habitat, mostly through non-adversarial means. In addition to our own learning, we heard that high school students were given a quadrant of the campus and problem solved to find improvements in runoff water use. This led to a new rain garden. This type of hands-on, problem-based learning helps make school meaningful and encourages thinking skills.

After the meeting about ten of the attendees continued the evening at Agave Restaurant with Mexican food and a pitcher of margaritas. We hope that these impromptu dinners will become the last act

of the monthly meetings. At the beginning of the meeting someone will announce the restaurant for the evening and ask for a show of hands of those attending to give the restaurant a heads-up.

The state AAUW convention is in Santa Clara this year. If you are interested in joining the group going for Saturday, April 14 please email me at [charneluks@msn.com](mailto:charneluks@msn.com). The convention is inspiring and we gain ideas from other AAUW branches. —**Charlene Luks**

## Public Policy Programs



Health-care spending in the US is at a historic low at 3.9% in 2010. High unemployment, loss of private insurance, and increased cost sharing are each considered part of the problem. Thus people cut back on care. AAUW believes everyone is entitled to health-care that is high quality, affordable, and easily accessible. AAUW is hopeful that the health-care law will improve the system. We will focus on need for access and affordability of health-care in a way that is equitable to women. This information is a synopsis from the AAUW Washington Update, January 13, 2012.

—**Suzanne Pfau**

## Dinner for Ten



**The deadline for signing up is February 3.** The dinners are on Friday, February 17. Please RSVP for either hosting or attending to **Ronnie Devitt**, 473-0595, [vdevitt@comcast.net](mailto:vdevitt@comcast.net)

## 2012 Historic Healdsburg Homes Tour



Our branch has so many wonderful activities from which all of us can choose. The other thing our branch does which I so admire is that we are not inundated all year long with requests to help with fundraising. Instead, we put all our efforts into just one fundraiser, the Homes Tour in May. Since we only do this one fundraiser a year, I ask that every one of our 150+ members be involved in some way or another, or even in multiple ways. There are so many fun ways to do so, and here are a few of the choices:

- \* sell tickets for the Homes Tour at a winery on Barrel Tasting and Passport weekends
- \* help stuff 1,000+ envelopes on March 6
- \* bake cookies for the refreshment table at the tour
- \* work at the tickets table the day of the tour
- \* work at the refreshment table the day of the tour
- \* be a docent at one of two shifts at each home on the day of the tour

**Janet Hoehn** is the brave soul who herself volunteered to coordinate all other volunteers. Please contact her at [ciaojanet@comcast.net](mailto:ciaojanet@comcast.net) or call her at 395-0556 soon to let her know how and where you would like to help. Thank you in advance for being generous with your time.

—**Jan Stanley**, Chair, 2012 Historic Healdsburg Homes Tour

### *FEBRUARY CULTURAL EVENT*

This month we're visiting Beekind in Sebastopol. In addition to a specially organized tasting of honey from local sources (good for those with pollen sensitive allergies) as well as honey from all over the US and imported varieties, there will be opportunities to ask questions about the current state of the honey bee and to have a look around Beekind's charming selection of candles, and lotions in addition to the honey. After our visit to Beekind we will have lunch at a restaurant to be "revealed" soon.



We will meet Friday, February 24 at 10:30 a.m. at the Park 'N Ride near Giorgio's. Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 21 [shannon@wreninternational.com](mailto:shannon@wreninternational.com) or phone me at 473-9796.

Until then, a stanza from poet Robert Kelly:

What does the bee think  
When her flower  
Writhes in the wind  
She struggles to stay in

—**Shannon Barton-Wren**

# Happy Hour at Hudson Street!



**Carol Novak, Happy Hour organizer**



**Shannon Barton-Wren and Louise Lambert**



**Gail Wright and Nicole Lousteau**



**Cathy Chiminello and Tanya Enders Beach**



**Clarence Harper, Sandy and Jerry Harrison, and Clare Harper**

## Thank You Letter from Fitch Mountain Campus



The following letter was sent to the AAUW membership by Annie Millar, the Interim Principal of Fitch Mountain Campus.

“Santa came early to Fitch Mountain Campus in the guise of AAUW. On behalf of the staff, I’d like to thank you. The office supplies were divvied up and delivered to their classrooms before they returned on January 10. What a great surprise and a boost to our spirits!

Thank you for your kind consideration. Please know that your thoughtfulness has both practical and cultural benefits to our staff, and by extension the students we serve. Thank you for making this difference.”

## AAUW Spring Convention

will be held in Santa Clara at the Santa Clara Marriot Hotel on April 13-15. Please check the AAUW CA web site for the particulars, including registration materials, candidates for board of directors, officers, and program. This is a great opportunity to learn about AAUW, hear some great speakers, and network with other members of our state organization.



—Suzanne Pfau

**Audrey Darby's** New Year's Resolution is to read *A Year with Hafiz, Daily Contemplations*. Hafiz was a Persian 14th century poet. They are love poems to life.

## Thank you from a Scholarship Recipient

Dear Scholarship Committee Members:

Thank you for the generous scholarship award. You have made my dreams become a reality. By receiving your generous gift I now have the ability to focus all my time and efforts to my education.



To begin my journey, I have been accepted to the UC Davis Honors Challenge program. If it were not for your gift I would not have the ability to pursue this wonderful experience of working one-on-one with the professor on their research projects. Thank you for providing me with the financial support to make my dreams come true.

Sincerely,

Kerrie Covert

## Friday Lunch Group

This is a HEADS UP. Our next lunch will be at Mateo’s Cocina Latina. It’s happening on Friday, March 30. More will follow in the March *Grapevine*. Mateo can only accommodate 22 women, so I suggest you put your reservations in early.

Call me at 707-433-2711 or email [hsliebchen2@comcast.net](mailto:hsliebchen2@comcast.net). Also we need someone to volunteer to take pictures.

—Helaine Scholze

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