

AAUW MEMBERS AND GUESTS ENJOY THE FALL BRUNCH . . .

With a New Twist

AAUW members and guests were treated to a lovely brunch catered by Vintage Caterers at the Niles Discovery Church on Saturday, September 9, 2017. This was a change from the traditional brunch catered by many of our generous AAUW members. A dynamic keynote speaker inspired attendees. Brenda Ahnholz, Professor of Communications Studies at Ohlone College was a welcome addition to the agenda at the Fremont Branch annual meeting.

Attendees had an opportunity to mingle and sign up for some of the programs such as One Book One Community Read Project, various book groups, Tech Trek and Equal Pay Day. Everyone enjoyed the delicious brunch menu of cheese blintzes, croissants, ham, fresh fruit and juice and coffee. President Elaine Wong Eakin welcomed those attending and began the business meeting. She started by presenting and explaining the proposed 2017--2018 budget. After a brief discussion, the budget was approved by the membership as presented. Mary Lynn Pelican introduced the new members and they were each given a beautiful rose in a bud vase. Elizabeth Bathgate from the Hayward--Castro Valley Branch presented Mary Lynn Pelican with the Legacy Circle pin. Mary Lynn was honored for making a planned gift to AAUW to ensure that the mission of equity for women and girls continues for generations to come.

Our keynote speaker, Brenda Ahnholz, is passionate about gender equity and her enthusiasm and sincerity is conveyed in her speech. Brenda learned to be strong from an important role model in her life--her grandmother. When she was a girl, her grandmother gave her a credo or statement of values. Brenda still has that credo today and it keeps her focused on what is truly important.

Gender equity can still be controversial. When she wrote a gender equity resolution for the faculty at Ohlone College, some felt that there was no need for such a resolution. However, her research shows that patriarchy is still very prevalent and that equity benefits families and the community as well. Research in sports, technology, art, business and education shows a wide discrepancy in equitable opportunities for men and women. Teachers tend to call on men more often in the classroom and men get promoted more often in the business world. The equal pay gap is still a stark reality. Women are policed on the basis of how they dress, behave, and look more than men.

Men commonly hold positions of high status and the least work. However, women have demonstrated that they can outperform men in the workplace. Women with two or more children tend to be the most productive! A study of 70,000 companies that promote gender equity found that those companies were more profitable than companies that did not promote gender equity. Clearly, a fresh new look at gender equity would benefit families and the community.

Announcements were made about some of the exciting programs planned for this year. Be sure and check your *Twig* and the website for updated information. Elaine thanked Linda and Terry Pearson for producing our roster for the past 20 years! She also thanked the brunch committee for an informative and enjoyable program. The brunch committee planned a unique program and it was a big success.