



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

A A U W

VANTAGE

November 2003

Long Beach Branch, Vol. 33 Issue 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fay Denny and Lynn Rodriguez, Co-Presidents

Written by: Fay Denny

Wanted: Women willing to donate their time to serve in an elected or administrative position for the Long Beach Branch. Our November Branch meeting is the time we will elect our Nominating Committee whose responsibility is to nominate our future leaders. Please, seriously think about serving on either the Nominating Committee or in an office or both.

November is also the month for reflection about the many blessings we have each day. Yes, there are times of tragedy, both personal and public; but, without these times, we would not understand or enjoy the wonderful events that fill our lives each day. Waking up to a beautiful morning, enjoying the songs of birds, listening to the many noises that mean our city is full of life, seeing friends, co-workers, and family, and

knowing how much they mean to our lives. These are the many things for which we are grateful and thankful.

AAUW is comprised of many talented, intelligent women united through similar qualifications and interests; and through our belief in equity in education and society. Through the Legal Advocacy Fund and AAUW's support of the brave women who seek justice and redress for sexual harassment, this month's speaker will bring home to us the importance of our continued support. And while we are often moved to tears by the injustice portrayed in these cases, we can be thankful that there are lawyers willing to take on these cases; and that we, as AAUW members, can help to make positive societal change.

Remember our veterans and service members on November 11th, and wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving Day with friends and family.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM - LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND FUNDRAISER



The November Branch meeting has a Legal Advocacy Fund theme. Our speaker for this month's meeting is **Nancy M. Solomon**, Senior Staff Attorney at California Women's Law Center, an organization whose mission is to ensure, through systematic change, that the life opportunities of women and girls are free from unjust social,

economic, and political constraints. Ms. Solomon was also a speaker at the LAF dinner at the Spring State Convention. She will speak at 11:00 a.m. at the Branch meeting and will be answering questions.

Ms. Solomon litigates cases addressing systematic discrimination against women and girls and advises practitioners, policymakers, and advocates on both California and federal laws addressing such discrimination. She has also appeared on the radio and television as a legal expert on laws against discrimination and frequently lectures about the legal rights of women and girls in California. Ms. Solomon's recent work has focused on the civil rights of pregnant and parenting teens in California schools, and discrimination against girls in sports at school and in recreational programs. Her recent work also includes sexual harassment, women's right to breast feed in public, equal access to healthcare and the illegal exclusion of contraceptive coverage in employer-sponsored prescription drug plans.

More about our Speaker continued on page 2

BRANCH NEWS

BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, November 1, 2003

LAF Fundraiser

BOARD OR DIRECTORS MEETING

Monday, November 17, 2003

At 6:30 p.m. in the AAUW Headquarters

LACIC MEETING

Monday, November 24, 2003

At 6:45 p.m. Methodist Church, Alhambra

BOARD BRIEFS

Julie Mills, Co-Secretary

At the September 15, 2003 meeting of the Board of Directors of AAUW, Long Beach Branch, regular business was conducted

COMMUNITY

Lorna Menke, Community Chair (562) 431-3762

This is a quote from a letter that I received from Blanca Zepeda, Volunteer Coordinator from the Women Shelter.

“Those of you who support us regularly know that the Women Shelter of Long Beach is a non-profit organization that provides support and comprehensive services to individuals who have been victims or are in danger of becoming victims of domestic violence at the hand of a spouse or partner. Holidays are especially difficult for our clients because many of them barely escaped the violent situation with only the clothes on their backs. Consequently, our clients are extremely financially burdened and lack the resources to purchase essentials, holiday meals or gifts for their children. This is where generous people like you can help. Know that your support is essential.”

In our next month's Vantage, I will include some specific items requested by the three organizations that our branch supports.

COURTESY

Mary Orr, Courtesy Chair

We are greatly saddened to learn of the death of Barbara Rathbun's husband, Jim, on September 19. A condolence card was sent on our behalf.

Nola Irvin had surgery at Memorial Hospital on September 29. The surgery was successful and Nola is now at home. A cheerful get-well card was sent, together with a follow up call.

Also, birthday greetings to all November honorees!

DECEMBER WASSAIL

Norma Mayfield and Betty Ann Rauch, Program Co-Vice Presidents

Thank you to all the members who signed up to help and/or to bring refreshments for the December Wassail. If you did not have an opportunity to sign up, the list will be passed out at the November meeting. Again, thanks!

LOST...

Black Fabric Tote at St. Luke's Church
Tote has personal and sentimental value.

If you have any information, please contact Lois Malone at (562) 421-3059

<p>AAUW-LONG BEACH WEBSITE: http://www.aauw-longbeach.org</p>

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November Program – Nancy M. Solomon, Senior Staff Attorney, California Women's Law Center

Ms. Solomon has authored articles and training materials on these issues, including a *Model Policy on the Civil Rights of Pregnant and Parenting Students*. Additionally, she has written California Women's Law Center Policy Briefs on *The Civil Rights of Pregnant and Parenting Students* and *Girls' Participation in Sports: An Important Tool in Teen Pregnancy Prevention*.

After graduating law school, Ms. Solomon clerked for the Honorable Ronald S. W. Lew, United States District Court, Central District of California then practiced as a labor and employment law attorney at O'Melveny & Myers LLP in Los Angeles. Prior to attending law school, Ms. Solomon worked for Senator Joseph Biden, Jr in Washington, D.C. In that position, she worked primarily on facilitating passage of the Violence Against Women Act.

Ms. Solomon currently serves on the Board of Directors of Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles and on the UCLA Hillel Annual Dinner Gala Planning Committee. She has also volunteered for Jewish Family Services' Project Caring since 1998. From 2001-2002, she served on the Board of Directors for Women's Care Cottage.

Ms. Solomon earned her J.D. magna cum laude from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law and her B.A. magna cum laude in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

DO YOU REMEMBER SUSAN WHITTAKER?

Lou Es Greene, LAF Co-Vice President

Susan Whittaker is the custodian who was sexually harassed at work with insulting comments about her body, accusations of taking a “man’s job” and obscene phone calls to her home. Reports to higher authority brought no relief, just retaliation instead.

She has been struggling to bring her suit against Northern Illinois University for four years. The University has delayed and delayed in submitting the required depositions to her attorney. Susan has had to change jobs.

Her suit for sexual harassment and retaliation should reach the courts sometime this winter. Your contributions to LAF and those contributions of other members all over the country have helped Susan and the many other litigants persist in their struggle for EQUITY.

LET US CONTINUE THAT SUPPORT!!

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION SILENT AUCTION

Kee DeBoer, EF Vice President

EF’s popular silent auction is scheduled this year in conjunction with the Christmas Wassail on December 6, 2003. It will be held in the large, beautiful Social Hall at St. Luke’s Church. We hope that every member will contribute something this, EF’s last fundraiser of the year. Start thinking about it – be creative! That’s what makes it fun.

We hope to have items in a range of prices, so your donation doesn’t need to be expensive. Often moderately priced things sell better than expensive ones. There are many things that would be great for the sale. Here are some examples – but you will be able to think of many more.

- Baskets based on a theme such as cats or giraffes, Christmas decorations, Italian food, tea time, books to read to grandchildren, kitchen gadgets
- Gift certificates from a restaurant – often a restaurant will donate a gift certificate if asked. We will provide receipts they can use for tax deductions.
- Gift certificates from a hair dresser, a florist or a car wash
- Home baked goodies such as a box of Christmas candy or perhaps a promise to make a special dessert at a time specified by the buyer, or cookies each month
- Handmade items – Do you knit, quilt or paint?
- A luncheon or party planned and catered for the buyer’s friends
- Cabins, condos, boats, etc. – Helen Sebring has promised to again donate weekends at her large cabin at Big Bear. It has been a hot item in the past. What a treat for a family! Perhaps other members can follow her example.
- Tickets for concerts, movies, or sporting events

Be innovative. Come up with something new and different

We need to know in advance what you will contribute so that we can prepare the bid sheets. Please fill out the following form and bring it to the November meeting. If you prefer, call me at (562) 430-8389 or email me at kdeboer@csulb.edu.

SILENT AUCTION DONATION

Name of Donor _____

Item _____

Value _____

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

Carolyn Magnuson and Joyce Blasnek, Public Policy Co-Chairs

The California legislature is in recess now and your elected representatives are home. Now is a good time to meet with them in their offices and ask questions. Your assembly member and senator want to talk to actual constituents, so make an appointment, and go see them. The session that just ended was successful from the standpoint of the bills AAUW-CA was following. Unfortunately, none of the anti-reproductive choice bills survived. AAUW's support of reproductive freedom is always important when elected representatives grapple with these difficult decisions

The following bills passed:

- Education: SB 71 (Kuehl) reorganized California's patchwork of sex education codes into a coherent whole. School districts can now update their sex education curriculum to remain in compliance with state codes.
- Health: SB545 (Speir) removed the additional training required before a pharmacist could dispense emergency contraception and capped the dispensing fee at \$10.
- Health: SB 200 (Murray) prohibits denial of long-term care insurance based on personal genetic information.
- Health: SB 921 (Kuehl) was withdrawn by the author and has become to a two-year bill. AAUW -CA reaffirms our support of the core concept of the bill – universal access to healthcare – and will work with Senator Kuehl as the bill continues through the process next session.
- Violence: SB 784 (Karnette) extended the sunset date to 2010 to the law giving a writ of habeas corpus to inquire into evidence relating to battered women's syndrome to those women incarcerated before the syndrome was recognized as a valid defense.
- Equity: AD205 (Goldberg) expanded the rights and responsibilities provided to registered domestic partners and their families.

For the current status on any piece of legislation, go to www.leginfo.ca.gov and enter the bill number.

NEWS FROM MARION SMITH, AAUW-CA LOS ANGELES DISTRICT DIRECTOR**Recruiting Younger Members**

I belong to another organization that experienced an incredible upsurge in membership in 2002-03, and most of the new recruits are under 30. When asked, the new young members said it was the programming, the opportunities for mentoring, the opportunities for networking that attracted them to the club. Our programs included "Developing Your Personal Brand" and "Collecting Art on a Budget." Regarding mentoring, they hope to both mentor and be mentored through the club. About "networking:" This is the language of current professional people. Consider showing a time for "networking" rather than "social" in your meeting announcements.

A workshop at the Association convention in Providence offered additional tips vis a vis recruiting four generations of members. Here are some of those tips:

- Concentrate your efforts on Baby Boomers. They are close in age to the average AAUW member, they are joiners, they are activists, and they care about our priorities.
- Spotlight three of AAUW's programs that especially appeal Baby Boomers: Sister-to-Sister Summits, Transitions Conferences for women considering a return to school, and the AAUW Voter Education Campaign.

Has your branch experienced an increase in membership? I welcome your recruitment tips! Send them to me at marion@stanfordalumni.org.

Healthcare for All Californians Act

AAUW-CA Los Angeles District is pleased to co-sponsor (with San Fernando Valley Branch and San Fernando Valley Women's Organization Coalition) a presentation by California Senator Sheila Kuehl on SB 921, the proposed Single Payer Health Care System legislation. The event will be a luncheon at Woodland Hills Country Club, 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 15. For information contact San Fernando Valley President Carol Levey at (818) 363-2557 or carollev@earthlink.net.

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AAUW MEMBERSHIP

MISSION IN ACTION – E- BULLETIN

A new benefit to AAUW members is *Mission in Action*, a member news and action bulletin. This electronic bulletin (e-bulletin) allows members to receive timely information, resource links, AAUW news, and opportunities for activism all in a quick, accessible format online.

With *Mission In Action* added to *AAUW in Action* and *AAUW Outlook*, we can be more informed of AAUW goings-on on the national level.

Features currently on *Mission in Action*:

- Senators rejected District Court Judge Charles Pickering's nomination to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2002. Nevertheless, he was renominated in January and may be reconsidered as early as October. 2. As a state senator, Pickering voted to outlaw abortion, attempted to cut state funding for family planning, and resisted measures to expand electoral opportunities for African Americans, even after passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. If confirmed—and positions are lifetime—he could undermine legal precedents affecting civil rights. See how to let your senators know your position on Pickering's judicial nomination.
- Head softball coach Robyn Handler had an exceptional record at Nova Southeastern University (FL) and nationally, consistently leading her teams to conference and regional titles—yet she earned less than her male colleagues. When Handler complained, she was fired. She sued, and trial is set for to November 11, 2003. For details about this and other LAF cases, access *Mission in Action*.
- More than a dozen women leaders from Russia met with staff on September 4 to discuss how AAUW tackles equity for women and girls both at home and abroad. The students, traveling through the Open World Program supported by the National Peace Foundation, asked about topics ranging from Foundation fellowships to whether women are, in fact, the stronger sex. Learn more or participate in the Russian leadership program in the new e-bulletin.
- Learn more about how AAUW was well represented at the U.N.'s "Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations," a September conference co-sponsored by more than 1,400 nongovernmental organizations. The message: human security and dignity are possible only when we exercise our collective responsibility and are civilly engaged in fighting for human rights and social justice.
- The AAUW Educational Foundation depends on members to submit nominations for the AAUW Achievement Award, presented every two years to a woman of outstanding achievement. Nominations are due Feb. 15, 2004. Honoraria, criteria, and nomination forms can be found via the news bulletin.
- Consider applying for a fellowship or grant and encourage other qualified women to do the same. Each year the Foundation awards nearly \$4 million to some 300 women. For applications, information, and fliers to post in your community, access *Mission in Action* (AAUW members are eligible for three of six programs).
- With a \$100,000 from the National Science Foundation, the Foundation will disseminate nationwide *Tech-Savvy Girls*, based on the Foundation's research on girls and technology. Members can purchase the video at a discount.
- Gloria Steinem asks and answers: Are we in a post-feminist era? Democrat pundit Julianne Malveaux and Republican counterpart Deborah Perry engage in a lively dialogue on the women's issues that united them. Hear these convention highlights and more.
- Read AAUW Executive Director Jacqueline E. Woods' editorial: "Is there a 'gender war' being waged against boys, as some have claimed?" published in the August 29 *USA Today*.

More details about these articles and much more can be found by going on line to
<http://www.aauw.org/ebulletin/september2003.html>

INTEREST GROUPS

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

Barbara Gleason, Chair

WHEN: Thursday, November 13

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: I will call you

We had such an enjoyable visit to view the display of the teapots at the Long Beach Museum of Art that Lorna Menke suggested we should have our own teapot party! Members are asked to bring their favorite teapot(s) to show and tell. Refreshments, of course, will be tea, scones, and cookies.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS UPDATE

Helen Sebring (562) 596-0186

We will be forming Great Decisions discussions groups in November. There will be a morning, an afternoon, and an evening group. Each group will decide whether to meet in a home, a restaurant or our headquarters. As usual, there will be eight timely topics to discuss. The discussion books cost \$15.00 and are very important to give basic, unbiased information. Member can also bring in other material from different sources. You will want to sign up for your group preference and order your book in November or before the middle of January. Please pay for your book before January 15. Call me to join or if you have any questions. Or, you can sign up a meeting.

Last year the groups met on Tuesday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and Friday afternoons. Some groups chose to meet every week for eight weeks. Others preferred every other week. You can always attend any of the groups if you have a time conflict so that you don't miss a discussion. This is a great program and a great way to meet with friends to hash over and share opinions about our most pertinent issues. You are welcome to bring friends or spouses if you wish also.

Come, sign up! You'll enjoy it, guaranteed!

¡ADELANTE! BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB – ONLINE CHAT

The ¡Adelante! Book Of The Month Club is a component of AAUW's diversity outreach program. The idea behind this book club is personal growth and branch change.

The books read by the book club are written from perspectives of diverse cultures that can broaden our own perspectives. Join the online chat and talk about issues of social injustice based on the month's selection. To subscribe, send an email to listserv@elists.aauw.org, typing in the message section: SUBSCRIBE ADELANTE Your First Name and Last Name. Leave the subject line blank.

¡Adelante! Books Of The Month 2003-2004

- September (Hispanic Heritage Month) – *Almost a Woman*, by Esmeralda Santiago
- October (Disabilities Awareness Month) – *Laughing Allegra: The Inspiring Story of a Mother's Struggle and Triumph Raising a Daughter With Learning Disabilities*, by Anne For, John Richard Thompson
- November (Native American Heritage Month) – *I Am Woman: A Native Perspective on Sociology and Feminism*, by Lee Maracle
- December – *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*, by Jennifer Finney Boylan
- January – *Couldn't Keep It to Myself: Testimonies From Our Imprisoned Sisters*, by Wally Lamb
- February (Black History Month) – *Roberts vs. Texaco: A True Story of Race and Corporate America*, by Bari-Ellen Roberts
- March (Women's History Month) – *Sisterhood is Powerful: An Anthology of Writings from the Women's Liberation Movement*, edited by Robin Morgan
- April – *No Disrespect*, by Sister Souljah
- May (Asian Pacific American Heritage Month) – *A Step from Heaven*, by An Na
- June (Gay/Lesbian Pride Month) – *Naked in the Promised Land: A Memoir*, by Lillian Faderman
- July – *If I Should Speak: A Novel*, by Umm Zakiyya
- August – *The Bean Trees*, by Barbara Kingsolver

INTEREST GROUPS

REGISTRATION

Antiques and Collections	2 nd Thursday	1:30 p.m.	Barbara Gleason	421-2206
Book Chat Plus*	4 th Monday	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Jean Friedrichs	598-9218
Day Gourmet	4 th Thursday	12 – 2:30 p.m.	Elizabeth Jackson	494-0979
Film Fans			Marilyn Fortier	421-5838
Golf at Bixby	1 st , 3 rd , 5 th Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Doris Doughty	(310) 832-1819
Great Books*	1 st Monday	1 – 3 p.m.	Mary Anagnostis	493-5988
Friday Bridge**	2 nd Friday	9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Cathy Cunningham	424-3166
Liberal Arts Bridge*	4 th Thursday	7 – 10 p.m.	Gwen Long	421-4844
Other Wednesday Bridge*	1 st , 3 rd Wednesday	12 – 4 p.m.	Emily Elgin	498-4646
			Marlys Pfrimmer	598-4161
Saturday Bridge*	3 rd Saturday	12:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Louise Sperr	425-6231
Wall Street Stocks				
Discussion Group*	1 st Thursday	1 – 3 p.m.	Dorothy Anderson	597-7645
Global Issues Discussion Group*	3 rd Friday	1 – 3 p.m.	Sally Geiger	498-3204
Global Issues Discussion Group II*	3 rd Tuesday	7 – 9 p.m.	Sally Geiger	498-3204
			Helen Sebring	598-0180

*Meets at Branch Headquarters @ 525 East 7th Street, Long Beach 90813

**Meets at the Petroleum Club

AAUW BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, November 1, 2003

Assistance League
394 Roswell Avenue
Long Beach, CA

PROGRAM:

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Networking
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Business
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Program
12:00 p.m. Lunch

MENU:

Chicken Dijon
Rice Trilogy
Mixed Green Salad with Bleu Cheese,
Tomato Confetti and Bleu Cheese
Dressing
Assorted Breads
Pumpkin Pie Cake
Coffee/Tea

PRICE: \$17.00

JoAnn Kuroda
Meeting Coordinator

Parking is limited. Please carpool.

RESERVATION RETURN:

Send your registration and check payable to AAUW, Long Beach Branch. Please mail to: **Catherine Magana 700 E. Ocean Boulevard #1703, Long Beach, CA 90802.**

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS:

Saturday, October 25, 2003

Member(s) _____

Phone (Day) _____ Evening _____

Guest(s) _____

Address(s) _____

Phone _____

No. of Reservations _____ Amount Enclosed _____

I would like to make _____ reservation(s) for the **meeting and program only.**

I would like a vegetarian meal _____

NOVEMBER 2003

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 BRANCH MEETING 9:30 a.m.
2	3 Great Books 1-3 p.m.	4	5 Golf @ Bixby 8:30 a.m. Other Wed. Bridge 12-4 p.m.	6 Wall Street Stocks 1-3 p.m.	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Antiques and Collections 1:30 p.m.	14 Friday Bridge 9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.	15 Saturday Bridge 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
16	17 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 6:30 p.m.	18 Global Issues Discussion Group II 7-9 p.m.	19 Golf @ Bixby 8:30 a.m. Other Wed. Bridge 12-4 p.m.	20	21 Global Issues Discussion Group 1-3 p.m.	22
23 <hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: 0;"/> 30	24 Book Chat Plus 1:30-3:30 p.m. LACIC MEETING 6:45 p.m.	25	26	27 THANKSGIVING	28	29

Editor, Darlene Daclan, 2169 Montair Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 (562) 673-6909 ddaclan@csulb.edu



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In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.