



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

AAUW-LONG BEACH VANTAGE

December 2006

Long Beach Branch, Vol. 36 Issue 3

Flo Pickett, Program VP

Holiday Wassail *Saturday, December 2, 2006*

December is Holiday month and AAUW celebrates with a traditional Wassail (an ancient salutation or toast to someone's health). We celebrate our health, our lives, our friendships and 85+ years of the Long Beach branch of AAUW. A wassail is also the spiced drink-in our case-the warm, spiced drink of the Holidays made yearly by one of our own members from her delicious recipe. Members bring very special refreshments.

This year the Wassail will be held Saturday, December 2 from 10 AM to 12 PM at the Bay Shore Community Church in the Concert Hall. The Church has parking for only 30 cars. As parking in Belmont Shore is always difficult, car pooling is encouraged. Call Flo Pickett if you would like to ride with someone...she will coordinate (562 421-5348).

Entertainment will be provided by our own Equity Players who are-always entertaining. Holidays songs will be sung. Past presidents will pour tea, wassail, or coffee. Our wassail is a wonderful opportunity to see old and new friends and toast each other!

We will also have a silent auction to raise funds for the Educational Foundation. This is a wonderful way to start your holiday shopping...many very nice items have been donated and money goes for a good cause.

Be sure to put Dec. 2nd on your calendar and bring a friend who would like to know more about AAUW. We promise good food and a good time with pleasant people.

BOARD BRIEFS

Fay Denny, Co-Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting, October 16, 2006, St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Long Beach Branch of AAUW was called to order by President Gail Morrison at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on October 16, 2006 at 6:45 p.m. Regular Branch business was conducted. The Education Committee recommended that the Board approve the Mentee sale of soap (they will make, package, and sell) at the Wassail. The board moved, seconded, and passed the recommendation. The net proceeds from the sale will be used to fund the Mentee's end of year meeting (party).

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.



BRANCH NEWS



Courtesy

Mary Orr, Courtesy Chair

Unfortunately, during the last week of October, Lou Es Greene fell on the sidewalk outside her home and suffered severe head and bodily injuries. Her doctor has put her on "house arrest" for ten days. She is slowly recovering. Your cards and calls will bring some cheer. A get well card was sent on behalf of AAUW.

Happy birthday to all December honorees.

"If the day and the night are such that you greet them with joy, and life emits a fragrance like flowers and sweet scented herbs, that is your success." Henry David Thoreau.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Planned Branch Program Meetings (all on a Saturday except where noted):

Dec 2	10 AM to Noon	Wassail Bay Shore Congregational Lakewood C.C.
Jan 6	9:30 AM	Leisure World
Feb 3	9:30 AM	Khoury's
Mar 3	8:30 AM	El Dorado Golf Course Restaurant
Apr 12*	5 PM	The Grand
May 5	9:30 AM	Old Ranch C.C.
Jun 2	9:30 AM	

*Thursday

December 1, 2006

**Last day for EF and LAF
Donations!**

**Math/Science Conference
February 24, 2006
LBCC PCC Campus**

**Still Needs Volunteers
Contact Daphne Ching-Jackson or
Sharon Westafer**

BOARD MEMBERS: Below are the dates, times, and location of future Board of Directors and Executive Committee Meetings:

Board of Directors: St. Luke's Youth Room, 6:30 PM: Jan 15, Mar 19, May 21 (Joint Mtg) (3rd Monday of Month)

Executive Committee: St Luke's, Room 117, 6:30 PM: Nov 20, Dec 18, Feb 19, Apr 16, May 21 (3rd Monday of Month)

January and February Meetings Preview

In January, our guest speaker will be an author, hopefully from the local area. February is Black History Month and we will have a speaker from CSULB on the status of diversity in Long Beach.

**AAUW-LONG BEACH WEBSITE: <http://www.aauw-longbeach.org>
Webmaster: George Jackson – email him at gl_jackson@hotmail.com**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Gail Morrison, President

FROM THE PRESIDENT...Board and Branch Notes

We asked our members if they had an LCD projector and wouldn't you know? George Jackson has one! We had to rent one for our speaker at our October branch meeting at the Holiday Inn for \$125. These very special projectors cost \$1000 or more and our speaker, Dr. Sax, returned her honorarium to us to be used to pay for the rental fee. She used it for her fantastic presentation on gender issues based on research conducted through UCLA. In the future, we now can save, thanks to George.

BE SURE TO ATTEND THE DECEMBER 2 WASSAIL AT BAY SHORE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. LOU ES HAS WRITTEN A FABULOUS OPERETTA THAT INTENDS TO TAKE ALL MEMBERS TO NEW HEIGHTS! The Equity Players will be performing, live on a real stage, in costumes, with routines, special lines, etc. so don't miss this exciting contribution for a golden opportunity to see our members perform a chance-of-a-lifetime presentation!

Questions regarding cancellations and refunds and RSVP's protocol has been brought to my attention. We need to think in terms of balancing the needs of our members with those of the Branch. On page A-34 of the 2006 Yearbook please NOTE item 4.b.:

"Those members making a reservation for a branch function have made a financial commitment and refunds shall not be made."

Next year's Nominating Committee (2007-2008) was elected at the Nov. 4 Branch meeting at the Long Beach Yacht Club. Elected are the following: Sharon Westafer, Chair, Norma Grady, Kee DeBoer, Jere Millington, Flo Pickett, Sunny Meylor, and Joan Calder. Start thinking of that special person (YOU?) to serve next year.

It was decided that in George Jackson's absence that the new Yearbooks will be distributed at the Wassail.

Last, but not least, Lou Es fell and split open the back of her head. She was delivering groceries to her home and her foot slipped out of her sandal. She has since discarded the sandal and has only a scab the size of a nickel on the back of her head. She is now out of "jail" (her doctor grounded her for 10 days) and she says she's walking better than before.

SEE YOU AT THE WASSAIL!

Great Decisions -- 2007

As usual the topics picked by the Foreign Policy Association for the Great Decisions discussion groups for 2007 are pertinent, serious, and well-worth our time and attention. Here is the list of topics: Middle East, Climate Change, Mexico, Migration, South Africa, War Crimes, Central Asia, and Children. Each year we try to offer at least three groups so that we can best accommodate each person's schedule: morning, afternoon, evening. Each group usually has 10 to 12 participants. It is always possible to begin a new group with six committed people. If there are too many in a group, some do not get the chance to participate fully. It is important for each person to have the Great Decisions book. It costs \$15.00 and enables us to all start out with similar information. You can always bring in more news of the subject. The committee orders the books in January and distributes them for the groups to begin in February. You have the chance to sign up immediately. Make out a check for \$15 payable to AAUW Long Beach and send to Helen Sebring. Friends are welcome in any group. Men, husbands, friends, relatives are welcome in the evening group. Get ready for another great year and help Kate Hyland and Helen Sebring pick the most important topics for a program at a meeting and for the International Dinner evening.

Thanks. Helen and Kate

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION UPDATE

Sharon Westafer, EF V.P.

Thank you so much to those of you who have so generously supported the Educational Foundation through your donations of money and/or your participation in the fundraising events. You won't want to miss the Wassail where we'll be having some terrific silent auction items, a jumble table of small, inexpensive items and a gently used book sale. If you have items or books to contribute, you can either bring them to the Wassail or call me (562-493-4749) and I'll be happy to pick them up. For auction items, it's best that we receive them ahead of time so we can make auction slips for them.

Following are Educational Foundation donations received this fall:

<u>Century Club</u>	<u>Second Century Club</u>	<u>Chocolate Club</u>
Dianne Bradfield	Joan Gustafson	Jean Aldrich
Kee Deboer	Deloris Mayuga	Barbara Gleason
Norma Grady	Ruth McLelland	Ellen Mathis
Gail Morrison	W. Ann Woitovich	
Linda Patten		
Frances Rozner		
Betty Thompson		
Betty Ann Rauch		
Judith Kaho		
Jere Millington		
Sharon Westafer		

Below are some quotes from past EF Fellows expressing their gratitude for the money they received:

Ralina Joseph, an American Fellowship recipient, wrote that her fellowship has meant the world. "Psychologically, my own faith in my research was boosted by my receiving such a prestigious fellowship." The fellowship meant that she would not have to teach for a semester but could focus her energies on her research.

Erin Ninh, also an American Fellow, attended U.C. Berkeley. "I'd like to speak to what the fellowship means to me as an individual. Far more, even than the material assistance, is what it represents: the vote of confidence, the gesture of your belief in the importance of what I do. Thank you."

Chinenye Ndefo, an International Fellow from South Eastern Nigeria, explained that the cost of a 2-year graduate program in Nigeria could build a duplex in one of the more beautiful residential areas in the city of Lagos. "When AAUW awarded me the fellowship, it was a dream come true for me. I would never have been able to afford a masters program abroad otherwise. This is a great opportunity for me, one that I truly appreciate, and I thank AAUW and all its donors for sowing a seed into my life. This seed will definitely grow and bring forth fruits in the lives of other girls and women in my country and beyond for as you educate a woman, you educate a nation." Chinenye was studying at the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

Kirsten Blount-Matthews, an American Fellow at U.C. Berkeley who attended the 2004 luncheon, sent me a letter afterwards. In it she expressed how attending the luncheon and meeting "a group of women who are so personally committed to forging and supporting women's educational opportunities that they regularly dedicate their time, effort, and money to make those opportunities possible" had helped her truly appreciate her fellowship. "Being at the luncheon, I realized that every dollar that I received from the AAUW came from actual people who felt I was worthy to receive it. Leaving the luncheon, I not only felt honored, but I also felt deep gratitude and a strong sense of responsibility."

You'd be amazed at how fast loose change adds up and if you commit to saving it each month, then sending the donation to EF, at the end of the year you can be a member of the Century, Second Century or Chocolate club. You don't have to contribute all the money at one time; all your contributions for the year add up. If you've been debating about whether to contribute to EF, I hope the sentiments of these women will encourage you because as Chinenye Ndefo so eloquently said: "As you educate a woman, you educate a nation."

If you would still like to make a donation to EF, please do so before December 1, 2006.

Public Policy

Betty Ann Rauch, Public Policy Director

The November 2006 Vantage explained why AAUW CA opposed Proposition 85. On November 7, the California voters also opposed Proposition 85. Proposition 85 lost, 53 percent to 47 percent.

AAUW CA also supported Ballot Initiative 1C, Ballot Initiative 1D, and Proposition 88. Ballot initiatives 1C and 1D passed. Proposition 88 was defeated.

There will be no meeting of the Public Policy Committee in December. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, January 17 at the home of Jean Aldrich, 7970 Ring St, Long Beach. The meeting will start at 1:30 pm and the subject will be health care. Most polls show that one of the top concerns of Americans is the rising cost of health care. Please bring any information you have on this issue. There are many suggestions of how to remedy the problem of lack of coverage or inadequate affordable coverage for all Americans. Hope to see you on January 17. Bring your thoughts and opinions and let's have a lively and informative discussion.



KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

Lou Es Greene, Community Representative

The donations of clothing and toiletries were much appreciated by the Women Center as was the quantity and quality of the school supplies for Mary Bethune Transitional Center. They were particularly delighted with the umbrellas that Barbara Gleason was able to track down. And, happily, Linda Moore is now able to resume her pick up and delivery service.

Wanda Haramis, the Facilitator at Bethune, is asking for a repeat of last year's Christmas gifts: warm blankets, large and small (Kindergarten size to 7th Grade), regular pillows and pillowcases. The blankets may be single bed to king size. The children need them and how rewarding if we can provide them. Add a cold child to your Christmas list.

Truth Is Stranger Than Fiction

Police in Los Angeles had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a lineup. When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat these words: "Give me all your money or I'll shoot!", the man shouted, "That's not what I said!"

THANK YOU FROM LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Recently, the Branch and two of our members (Dr. Lou Es Greene and Mary Orr) were thanked by the Bethune Transition Center for the donation of much needed school supplies, children's magazines, and books. The letter, written by Rhonda Haramis, Program Facilitator/Lead Teacher, Bethune Transitional Center, stated in part: "Your care, concern and actions show our students the importance of giving back to our great community. Because of magnificent contributors like you, we can offer our students so much...Thank you again for your support of Bethune and your donations."

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

Jean Aldrich, LAF Vice President

At our November program meeting we supported the Legal Advocacy Fund of AAUW. Founded in 1981, the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) provides funding and a support system for women challenging sex discrimination in higher education.

Our speaker at our November program meeting was Dee Abrahamse, Provost at CSULB. She gave us her perspective on the status of women at the University. Dee has been at CSULB since 1967 and has lived through the many changes at the university. She has been a faculty member and has served as Department Chair of History, Coordinator of Women's Studies, Associate Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences and since 1990 Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. She also served as acting Vice-President of the University from 1992-1994. She has been involved in developing interdisciplinary programs and support for women students and faculty throughout her career on campus. Dr. Abrahamse holds a BA degree from Mount Holyoke College and an MA and PhD in History from the University of Michigan with a specialization in Byzantine history. Dee is active in the community as a member of the LB Public Library Foundation Board, and of the Camerata Singers of Long Beach. She enjoys singing, music, and spending time with her family - husband Allan, sons Paul and Benjamin, daughter-in-law Hue, and grand-daughter Genevieve.

>

From the beginning of the program, AAUW LAF has funded over 100 cases and donated over one million dollars (\$1,000,000). Long Beach Branch contributed so generously that the money collected is still be counted. A final count of the amount donated to LAF will be presented in the January VANTAGE.

If you weren't able to make a donation at the November meeting but still want to, please send your check, payable to LAF Long Beach. Please mail in time for receipt before December 1, 2006. Please mail your donation to:

Jean Aldrich, LAF Vice President

7970 Ring Street

Long Beach, CA 90808

Call if you have questions – (562) 430-8688

THE MENTORING PROGRAM

At the Wassail, our mentees will be selling soap that they made at the November meeting. At the meeting, the mentees learned about owning and operating their own business—including identifying and making a product for sale, setting a sales price after understanding the cost of production, and developing a sales strategy. The net proceeds from the soap sold at the Wassail will be used to fund the last mentoring meeting of the year. Please stop by and chat with our mentees—they are a delightful group of girls.

To the right is a picture of our Mentors and Mentees taken at the team building meeting in October.

Pictured are (from left to right):

Ellen Mathis, Michelle Zarzana, Pat Sargeant (behind Michelle) Mentor Program Chair, Robin Hollowell

(12th grade), Jennie Samonn (9th grade), Kimsoppa Chan (8th grade), Tania Padilla (11th grade), Kathy Jimenez (11th grade), Vanessa Lopez (11th grade), Nicole Ramsdell.



FROM THE AAUW.ORG WEBSITE

AAUW Celebrates 125 Years

AAUW is one of the oldest women's nonprofit organizations

WHAT: The American Association of University Women, one of the oldest nonprofit organizations dedicated to women's rights, celebrates its 125th anniversary with a museum exhibit and event at the Historical Society of Washington DC on Nov. 9. AAUW has its roots in DC, where its headquarters has been since the 1800s.

At the event, AAUW President Ruth Sweetser will honor the organization for its dedication to promoting equity and education for all women and girls. Sweetser will air a historic audio recording of AAUW founding mother Marion Talbot. This rare audio material has not been publicly heard since its original recording in 1945. Attendees will have the opportunity to view the special AAUW exhibit, "AAUW at 125: A Legacy of Leadership," which displays prominent artifacts, photos and memorabilia of AAUW over the years. The exhibit will remain on display at the Historical Society during the month of November and is open to the public.

WHERE: The Historical Society of Washington, DC, 801 K Street, NW (at Mt. Vernon Square).

WHEN: Nov. 9, 2006. Program begins at 9:30 a.m., light breakfast will be available at 9 a.m.

WHO: AAUW celebrates 125 years – a legacy of leadership. Members have included many exceptional women, such as Coretta Scott King, former Congresswoman Patsy Mink, Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught, and Dr. Johnnetta Cole. Today AAUW numbers more than 100,000 members, 1,300 branches, and 500 college and university partners; more than 47 branches exist in the DC metro area.

WHY: To pay tribute to one of the nation's oldest nonprofit organizations.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee for board officers for the 2007-2008 branch year was elected at the November branch meeting. The committee members are: Joan Calder, Kee DeBoer, Norma Grady, Sunny Meylor, Jere Millington, Flo Pickett and Sharon Westafer, Chair. Please contact Sharon Westafer, 562-493-4749 sharwest1@hotmail.com, or any member of the committee, with suggestions for the following offices: President elect, Program V.P., Membership V.P., Educational Foundation V.P. Legal Advocacy Fund V.P., or Secretary.

IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT: AAUW Vantage (USPS 361-850) is published monthly except in July and September by the Long Beach Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), 525 E. 7th Street #117, Long Beach 90813. Periodical postage paid at Long Beach, CA. Postmaster send address changes for AAUW Vantage to 525 E. 7th Street, #117, Long Beach, CA 90813.

Interest Groups

New Members Group: Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2006. 6:30 PM. All new members and prospective members are invited to meet at the home of Betty Thompson, 12412 Ballantine Dr, Los Alamitos, 562 430-8438. It's a wonderful time to meet other new members and learn about our organization. *Dinner will be served!* Please RSVP by Nov 25 to JoAnn at (562) 429 6923 or email: sojoinlb@aol.com or call Fay Denny at 714 894-0416, email: faydenny@yahoo.com.

Book Chat Plus: Will not be meeting in December. Please join us in January on the 4th Monday, 130 to 330 PM, at Branch Headquarters. Call Jean Friedrichs, (562) 598 9218 for more info.

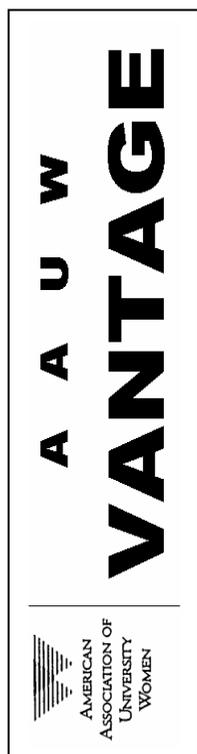
Antiques and Collectibles. Will not be meeting in December. Call Barbara Gleason if you have any questions about the group: (562) 421-2206

Bridge Groups:

Other Wednesday Bridge	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday	Noon – 4:00 p.m.	Emily Elgin	498-0646
Friday Bridge	2 nd Friday	9:30 a.m. – noon	Cathy Cunningham	424-3166

Both groups meet at the Petroleum Club, 3636 Linden Avenue, Long Beach, 90807

Co-Editors: Patricia Ferrer 365 Ultimo Ave Long Beach, CA 90814 562 597 4781 eMail: panderoh@aol.com
Janet Seiter 562 437-2004 jdseiter@earthlink.net



AAUW Long Beach Branch
525 E. 7th Street, #117
Long Beach, CA 90813

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.

Periodicals
U.S. Postage
PAID
Long Beach
USPS 361-850