



# AAUW-LONG BEACH VANTAGE

December 2008

Long Beach Branch, Vol. 38 Issue 4

Darci Fersch, Program Vice President

## Here We Come a Wassailing ...



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Come join us for the annual **Holiday Wassail** on **Saturday, December 6, 2008** from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 525 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Long Beach. Wassail, pronounced *wossayl* or *wossal*, is the spicy holiday drink of Yule against which the custom of wassailing surrounds. Wassail is more of an event than any mere refreshment, and its origins can be traced back hundreds of years. Popular in Eastern Europe and the UK, the term 'wassail' is a contraction of the Gaelic phrase 'Waes Hael', which translates to 'Good Health'. Please join us as we celebrate our *Good Health* this Holiday season with good food, good friends, a silent auction, as well as continuing the custom of lively entertainment from our own Equity Players!

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**Please** remember to complete the Every Member Survey you received in the Perspective and mail it in by December 1. It is important that we have input for our Public Policy for State.

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**AAUW's Mission Statement:** *Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.*

**AAUW's Value Promise:** *By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.*

# BRANCH NEWS

Mary Orr, Courtesy Chair

## COURTESY

We sadly note the death of one of our dear members, Katherine Jenkin. A condolence card was sent to her family.

Barbara Cottrell recently returned from Michigan where she attended the funeral of her older brother. Our thoughts and prayers are with her. A condolence card was sent to Barbara and family.

We wish you old-fashioned pleasures, happy memories and all the joys of Christmas and the holidays.

Birthday greetings to all December honorees.

LACIC meetings: January 26 and March 23, at 6:30 p.m. at Downey City Library. Leadership Day: May 30, details TBA.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Planned Monthly Branch Meetings

- 12/6 Wassail, St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- 1/3 Lunch, Leisure World  
Speaker will be from one of the local philanthropic organizations we support
- 2/7 Lunch, Skylinks Golf Course  
Chris Lytle, Manager Director, Port of Long Beach, Speaker
- 3/7 Lunch, The Grand  
Dr. Caroline Heldman, author of "*Rethinking Madame President*", Speaker"
- 4/2\* Dinner, Assistance League Headquarters  
International Relations Speaker
- 5/2 Afternoon Membership Garden Party  
Location: TBA
- 6/6 Lunch, Old Ranch Country Club  
Installation of New Officers

All meetings except 4/2 are on the first Saturday of the month

\*4/2 - Thursday evening meeting

PLEASE JOIN US

Prospective New Members  
Welcome at Every Meeting

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

All are held on the third Monday of the month. Future meetings are scheduled for January, March, and May and start at 6:30 PM at St. Luke's: 1/19, 3/16, 5/18 (Joint meeting with old and new boards)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All are held on the third Monday of the month and start at 6:30 PM at Linda Patten's home in Cerritos, CA  
Dates: 11/17; 12/15; 2/16; 4/20

AAUW-LONG BEACH WEBSITE: <http://www.aauw-longbeach.org>  
Webmaster: – Marion D. Smith email her at mariondsmith@gmail.com

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To take action on the new AAUW CA mission based program: **Financial Literacy**, Emerson Fersch, CFP, and Kim Onisko, MA, CPA were the dynamic and informative speakers at our November meeting. They helped clarify and put into perspective the current national financial situation as well as offering suggestions and insights into personal investing and non-profit management.

AAUW will not be increasing dues next year! In addition -- more good news -- neither will your branch. Your Dues Committee met in November and after a thoughtful and careful evaluation of the branch's budget, discovered that we will be able to operate within budget next year without additional funding. Your board has met one of our most important goals: achieving effective resource management by utilizing our budget, technology and members to maintain fiduciary fitness.

Please plan to join us for the Wassail; it is a perfect way to begin the holiday season.

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Lamis Hashem, International Relations Co-Chair

## GREAT DECISIONS

The presidential election is over and now we can turn our attention again to global issues. If you have not joined a discussion group, you still have the opportunity to do so.

We have three groups that meet at different times to accommodate the members' preferences. On differing days of the week, there is one in the morning, one in the afternoon and one in the evening.

The discussions are centered on the eight topics featured in the Great Decisions book, published by the Foreign Policy Association. They are thought-provoking analyses of eight issues of concern to the United States policy makers today and represent foreign policy challenges.

Join us to share and express your opinion and enjoy the friendship that develops between attendees. Let us order a copy of the book for you, only \$20.00.

### Contact

Helen Sebring at: (562) 596-0180 or, [hmfsebring@yahoo.com](mailto:hmfsebring@yahoo.com)

Lamis Hashem at: (562)795-6605 or, [Thehashems@aol.com](mailto:Thehashems@aol.com)

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Carolyn Magnuson, LAF Chair

## LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

Thanks to all of you who generously donated to the LAF at Saturday's meeting. It is not too late for those of you who were not at the meeting to donate too. Please make your checks out to AAUW-LAF and send them to Carolyn Magnuson, 4067 Hardwick Street, Lakewood, CA 90712. Please be as generous as you are able to be.

## **Public Policy**

### **Education Department Releases Regulations on No Child Left Behind.**

On October 28, 2008, U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings announced final regulations to strengthen and clarify *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB), focusing on improved accountability and transparency, uniform and disaggregated graduation rates and improved parental notification for Supplemental Education Services and public school choice. The secretary noted these new regulations build on what has been learned after six years of NCLB and will primarily focus on uniform graduation rates in all states. Under the new regulations, all states will use the same formula to calculate how many students graduate from high school on time and how many drop out. The final regulations define the “four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate” as the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high-school diploma divided by the number of students who entered high-school four years earlier, adjusted for transfers, students who emigrate and deceased students. The data will be made public so that educators and parents can compare how students of every race, background and income level are performing.

Under the new regulations, the Secretary of Education will be required to continue the dialogue and address some of the more technical needs of the states through the National Technical Advisory Council. The council is comprised of experts in the fields of education standards, accountability systems, statistics and psychometrics, it is advising the Department on complex and technical issues to ensure state standards, and assessments are of the highest technical quality.

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Jean Aldrich, Barbara Cottrell and JoAnn Kuroda, Co-meeting coordinators

### **GUIDELINES FOR LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS**

To make luncheon reservations run smoothly please follow these guidelines:

1. If the deadline to make the luncheon reservation has passed, you can still reserve space to attend the program and ask to be on the luncheon waitlist, there may be a cancellation or a no-show.
2. When you make a lunch reservation, a financial commitment has been made and refunds shall not be made.
3. In the event you would like a reservation after the deadline and you know someone who made a reservation who can't attend please call that person and make payment directly to them. Also, advise the reservationist.
4. Do not call the restaurant to find out if there is space available.
5. Try to get your check in the mail early because the postal service does not always get to the reservationist by the deadline date.

Thank you for your cooperation and help.

## EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Thanks to all of you who give such generous support to the Educational Foundation through donations of money and/or attendance at fundraising events. The Fantasy Trip to China was a big success, as was the bus trip to the Huntington Library. Thank you to Barbara Cottrell and Jere Millington for hosting the fun Bunco evening and to JoAnn Kuroda and her committee for the wonderful luncheon at the October branch meeting. The December Wassail will include a silent auction and gently used book sale and will be our final fundraising event for this year.

Following are Century Club, Second Century Club and Chocolate Club members for 2008.

### Century Club

Dianne Bradfield  
Daphne Ching Jackson  
Kee DeBoer  
Fay Denny  
Darcy Fersch  
Norma Grady  
Anne Graves  
Judith Kaho  
JoAnn Kuroda  
Carolyn Magnuson  
Betty Ann Rauch  
Frances Rozner  
Carol Smith  
Ann Weitovich

### Second Century Club

Jere Millington  
Linda Patten

### Chocolate Club

Jean Aldrich  
Barbara Gleason  
Joan Gustafson  
Frances LaMar  
Ellen Mathis  
Deloris Mayuga  
Gail Morrison  
Sharon Westafer

Numerous members donated amounts less than \$100 and/or their time and talents toward fundraising efforts. I appreciate your generosity and support.

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## **Association summary and feedback on the Proposed Bylaws**

In the November Vantage, I included a one-page summary of the changes proposed for Association Bylaws. Since then, the Association Bylaws committee has published their results of the feedback they received from branches, states, and members nationwide on the draft bylaws proposal. Some revisions have been made based upon the feedback; and the final version of the bylaws will be posted on the AAUW website in early January and published in the Spring *AAUW Outlook*.

About 330 members nationwide submitted feedback from 37 different states. Article IV. Membership and Dues received the highest amount of comments, with national dues collection receiving the second highest amount of comments, and the roles of states and branches receiving the third highest amount of comments. Quoting from the Association Feedback article: *“The comments on this proposal (ed: no degree requirement) were highly emotional, with many expressing the opinion that this would destroy the uniqueness of AAUW. Those supporting the proposal stated that if AAUW values equity for women, then we should be equitable in who can be a member, also that organizational effectiveness is correlated to member commitment to mission, rather than on member credential/s. There was no other proposal in the Bylaws that elicited emotion or volume like this. The Bylaws Committee believes that the members are the ones who should be allowed to make this important decision at the June AAUW Convention in St. Louis.”*

The Association Bylaws committee feels that the proposal to pay dues directly to Association has been addressed by a new pilot project being developed which would allow members to have a choice of either paying dues directly to Association or through the branch. This pilot project is scheduled to begin for 2009/2010. (See the AAUW.org website for more information.) As a result of this pilot project, no revisions were proposed for the bylaws.

A revision was made by the Association Bylaws committee concerning the structure of the state organizations. Quote: *“A sentence was added to clarify that current state structures do not cease to exist on July 1, 2009, and remain in effect until such time as the branches determine that the organization should no longer exist. In addition, guidelines will be developed by the AAUW Board of Directors with policies and procedures for state (and branch) organizations that wish to change their structure”*

(Please continue reading on page 7)

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The following is quoted from the feedback article: “What next? The Bylaws Committee presented the revised Bylaws to the Boards of Directors at their October meeting, and the committee will now finalize the Bylaws, along with an introduction and rationale for each article. These will be completed and sent to the AAUW publications department by Thanksgiving for their editing, then posted on the AAUW website in January and published in the Spring AAUW Outlook. The Bylaws Committee will also be posting a Q&A that doesn’t go over specific sections in the Bylaws (since that will be included with the Bylaws) but addresses questions raised in the feedback forms, such as the difference between a quorum and the vote required for adoption of a motion, DC Code requirements, how the 501(c)(4) AAUW Action Fund will be funded, LAF, etc. Lastly, there will be discussions at state conventions next spring and briefings at Convention in St. Louis.”

*Be on the lookout for the revised draft bylaws to be posted on the AAUW.org website sometime in January. Then, when the Spring Outlook arrives, be ready to read the proposed bylaws and develop your opinion. At this time, 5 members of the Long Beach branch plan to attend the Association convention in St. Louis in June, 2009. The five members will want to know your opinions.*

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Carol Smith and Fay Denny, Co-Vice Presidents, Membership

## **Membership News for December**

Those of you who attended the November Branch meeting heard the wonderful news that our branch received seven (7) memberships during October. Five of the new members had joined AAUW as “member-at-large” members and were happy to hear from us. We look forward to their participation in our branch. Two of our new members came as guests of current branch members, so you can see how important it is to talk to your friends about AAUW. You can easily spot our new members at the branch meeting as they have a bright, pink strip of paper in their nametag.

Could there be a better way to introduce a prospective member to our branch than to bring them to our Christmas Wassail? Let them enjoy the food, the friends, the happy atmosphere and the sing-along as we usher in the holiday season at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church.

Please continue to send the names and addresses of prospective members to Carol Smith or myself as we will send out membership packets to your nominees. Happy holidays to you all.

## INTEREST GROUPS

Public Policy, please contact Betty Ann Rauch 562 431-6679 for information.

Book Chat Plus, please contact Jean Friedrichs for more information, 562 598-9218.

Great Books meets the first Monday of the month at Violette Dwyer's home. Please contact Linda Patten 562 402-6831.

Community Connections will meet on the third Monday of most months at Marie Callendar's Grille, Rossmoor, at 6:30 P.M. Contact Anne Supple for more information, 562 665-8361

Literary Ladies meet the second Monday of the month at Jean Aldrich's home, 1:00 PM. Please contact Pat Ferrer at 562 597 4781 for more information.

Equity Players meet "as needed." New members always welcome. Please contact Lou Es Greene at 562 434-6477.

Antiques and Collectibles please contact Barbara Gleason, 562 421-2206, for information.

Bridge Groups: (Please call first to verify, day, time, and place)

Other Wednesday Bridge	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	Noon – 4:00 PM	Emily Elgin	562 498-0646
Friday Bridge	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	9:30 AM – Noon	Cathy Cunningham	562 424-3166

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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.

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