



AAUW-Long Beach VANTAGE

February 2010

Long Beach Branch, Vol. 39 Issue 6

By Carol Smith, VP Programs

Saturday, February 6, 2010 Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal



We are fortunate to have California Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal who represents the 54th Assembly District as the speaker for our February Branch meeting. The 54th District includes over half of the City of Long Beach, the San Pedro area of Los Angeles, and the entire Palos Verdes peninsula. Since her election to the Assembly in 2008, Assemblywoman Lowenthal has taken an active role in the Assembly, serving on ten Assembly committees and chairing both the Select Committee on Ports and the Assembly Committee on Aging and Long Term Care. In the first ten months of her Freshman year in the Assembly, she shepherded nine bills through the Assembly and was honored by the California Assisted Living Association as "Legislator of the Year".

Prior to her election to the Assembly, Ms Lowenthal was elected to represent the First Council District of the City of Long Beach in 2001, and served as Vice Mayor of Long Beach in 2006. She also served on the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education for seven years and was a member of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and many other community boards and committees.

The national economic downturn has produced challenges that are unprecedented in recent years for the State of California and these challenges may be felt most strongly in Sacramento, where our elected officials must attempt to resolve them. Assemblywoman Lowenthal will address some of these many issues as they affect our state and local areas, while also looking at some of the issues for women that arise from them.

AAUW's Mission Statement: *AAUW advances 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

Wed March 4, 2010, Half the Sky Live a short powerful film directed by Academy Award Winner Marisa Tomei, will be showing at local theaters nationwide including a theater in Long Beach. Sponsored by CARE, a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty, and supported by AAUW and other women's organizations, this movie will be part of the celebration of International Women's Day.

If interested in attending and for more information, please contact Flo Pickett flopickett@earthlink.net or 562 421-5348.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Planned Monthly Branch Meetings

2/6/10 Assemblymember Bonnie Lowenthal
Long Beach Yacht Club

Prospective New Members
Welcome at Every Meeting

Board Brief, December 14, 2009

Carolyn Magnuson moved that all bills due be paid. The motion passed.

Linda Patten moved that the Tech Trek Committee have a fundraising section at the January Branch Meeting. Motion Passed

Diane Bradfield moved that EF have approval for two fundraisers in the coming New Year: 1) Bunco 2) Long Beach Community Playhouse. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Executive Committee meetings (elected officers) are held at the home of Judith Kaho. Please be at Judith's by 6:30 PM. Elected board members are expected to attend each board meeting— Please contact Pat Ferrer, 562 -597-4781, panderoh@aol.com or Frances Rozner, 562 -438-0202, frozner3@verizon.net or frozner@scco.edu , if you are unable to attend.

Dates: 2/15; 4/19 *Second Monday

The Full Board meetings are held at the Iacoboni Library on Clark Ave, Lakewood, across the street from the Home Depot. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:00 PM. Meet and greet and refreshments will start at 5:30 PM. **All** elected board members and appointed officers are expected to attend; appointed Chairs are invited. Please notify one of the co-Presidents (see above) if you cannot attend a meeting.

Dates: 3/15, 5/17 (Joint meeting with outgoing and incoming boards)

Any Branch member is welcome to attend any Board meeting. Please let one of the co-Presidents know if you plan to attend and are not a member of the Board.

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

AAUW eMail Address: AAUWLongBeach@gmail.com

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



Patricia Ferrer & Frances Rozner

In keeping with journalistic tradition, now is the time to applaud our accomplishments over the past year and to look forward to what lies ahead. We believe you'll agree that it there were definite challenges in 2009 - which brought out our amazingly creative abilities and gave us the impetus to make changes for 2010.

The onset of the Great Recession dashed our hopes for the 2009 Math and Science Career Conference. However, that experience renewed our fervor to provide an educational experience for young women in February 2010, no matter the number. AAUW-CA lowered their minimum contribution for the Special Projects Fund to \$1000; Sharon Westafer applied for inclusion and the newly named STEM Career Conference now has its own account - launched with \$1500 from BP (British Petroleum) through a creative application process by our wonderful conference Chemical Engineer, Ms. Annie Duong, who enrolled two colleagues to also raise funds for this worthy cause.

At the AAUW national convention in June, new bylaws were adopted, signaling changes to be met at the state, regional and branch levels. In July, 30-plus Branch members met for five hours to begin the process of developing our own local Vision – shaping what we want the Branch to be in the next decade. That process is on target for completion by Summer 2010, thanks to a task force of eight. Another task force is working to update our Branch Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

The Recession shone a spotlight on our investments and how we were handling them. With the possibility of future bequests, the Branch approved an Investment Policy in June to better manage our funds. We received a distribution in December from the Neva Blust Trust, which will eventually be added to the Black/Holmes Fund. As this Fund grows, it will be invested as per our new policy.

Meanwhile, the lack of use of the facility at St. Luke's, potential significant rent increases, and decreasing CD interest rates that continued to diminish our Building Fund prompted the Branch to make changes to its housing of records and supplies. In so doing, we will be making available to the community and historians the details of our rich past with the storage of key historical records at the Long Beach Historical Society. Carolyn Magnuson is chairing the task force charged with this transition out of St. Luke's.

We sent five girls to Tech Trek in July. Our goal is the same for summer 2010, but this time, instead of Whittier College, University of California, Irvine (UCI) will be the destination for our girls. One other change: we've branched out to four middle schools as sources for our candidates.

The Branch's AAUW Funds Educational Foundation, with a team led by Fay Denny, took a bold new fund-raising and fundraising step in October by launching the first annual Luncheon Most Deadly. With the \$5600 in funds raised both there and through the generosity of individual members, we were able to enjoy a thoroughly social Wassail event. We even raised close to \$2000 for AAUW Funds LAF in 2009.

Looking ahead, we know that with the whole-hearted participation and leadership of our creative and enthusiastic members, we're up to any challenge, any change. Welcome to 2010! To help keep up the momentum, please consider taking a position on the Executive Board next year. Contact Fay Denny or any member of the nominating committee to discuss your interest.



Educational Foundation News

By Dianne Bradfield & Betty Shaw – co-Educational Foundation VPs

With so many generous branch members giving to the EF Funds this year, we wanted to share the following information about three of the EF recipients who received partial funding for three of our grants:

Patience Afulani from Ghana is attending UCLA to get her Ph.D., in Public Health. She is being funded by the Stockton Branch International Fellowship and the Anna Townsend International Fellowship. She plans to return to Ghana and establish community health programs in her country.

Lynne Velling is attending CSU Los Angeles to finish her M.S. in Teaching English as a Second Language. Part of her funding is coming from the Connie Wright Inskeep Research and Projects Grant.

Christine Young is attending the University of San Diego to receive her juris prudence in Law. Part of her funding is coming from our Joyce Clark Research and Projects Grant. She wants to specialize in women's issues and reproductive justice. Your contributions really do make a difference in the lives of young women!! Thank you!!

P.S. Please save the date for our upcoming EF Bunco night on February 11th at 7 p.m. at the home of Barbara Cottrell! In addition, tickets are now available for \$20 to the L.B. Playhouse showing of Agatha Christie's "The Hollow" on Friday, March 12th

2010 Tech Trek Fundraising Continues

Linda Patten & Anne Supple, Co-Chairs

Many thanks to all of the members who have already so generously donated to the 2010 Tech Trek fund. We hope to send 4 girls to the week-long Math/Science camp at UC Irvine in August. The cost is \$800 per camper. If you have not yet had the opportunity to donate, you may do so at the February branch meeting or mail your check to Linda Patten, 19615 Jeffrey Circle, Cerritos, 90703, by February 20th. This donation is tax deductible and a receipt will be provided for your tax records

Take Action!

Urge your members of Congress to support AAUW's policy recommendations aimed at continuing to improve women's status and strengthening the economic security of their families. Go to www.aauw.org. Click the section Take Action to see issues of interest to women.

By: Sharon Westafar



STEM CONFERENCE UPDATE

The Long Beach branch STEM conference is scheduled for Friday, February 26th, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. There will be a committee meeting at Marisela Moreno’s home on Tuesday, January 19th beginning at 6:30 p.m. to finalize plans. Leaders from participating after-school programs have been invited to attend, as well as our keynote speaker, Rosario Rivas.

Annie Duong, a Chemical Engineer and longtime participant in the conference, was instrumental in securing a donation of \$1500 to the conference from her employer, BP.

Please contact Sharon Westafar if you would like to volunteer for this fun, educational day. There will also be a sign up



New Members Potluck

Barbara Cottrell & Jere Millington New Member Orientators

Come one---come all! Let’s get together at Barbara Cottrell's home on February 18th at 6:00 p.m. Please call 714-891-2183 if you plan to attend for eating, visiting and talking about our role in the mission of American Association of University Women.

By: Flo Pickett

Public Policy



For the first time in our nation's history, women make up half of all workers and are becoming the primary breadwinners in more families than ever before. Times have changed, but policies at government, education, and business institutions haven't kept up. Last Friday, AAUW released [policy recommendations](#) in response to a new report from Maria Shriver and the Center for American Progress. [The Shriver Report-A Woman's Nation Changes Everything](#) highlights the rise of women in the workforce while emphasizing that working women and their families lack the critical support they need to thrive in today's changing world. One of the report's main authors, Heather Boushey, is a former AAUW Fellow.

We know that equity in numbers has not translated into gender equity in America's workplaces, educational institutions, or government agencies. In areas from pay equity and work/life balance to education and health care, there is much work to be done to break through the barriers, which have impeded the progress of women and girls for far too long.

Courtesy

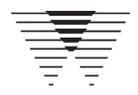
By Mary Orr

No news is good news so hope you all survived the holidays and that 2010 will be happy and healthy.

Birthday greetings to all February honorees.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY: 

Roses symbolize love-choose the shade that best matches your feeling: RED-love, passion, respect, courage; YELLOW-joy, friendship, freedom; PINK-happiness, gratitude, admiration; WHITE-innocence, purity, reverence.



Membership Report AAUW

By: Fay Denny & Judith Kaho, co-Membership VPs



THANK YOU!

Both Judith and I wish to thank the branch members for continuing to recommend new AAUW prospective members to us. The Branch now has grown to 127 members! **BRAVO!**

Please note that the May Membership Garden Party date has been changed to May 15th. Our original date of May 1st conflicted with our AAUW State Convention, which is April 30 – May 2, 2010. Therefore, now our Garden Party will be at the home of Kay Hudnall on Saturday, May 15, 2010. You may wish to make this change in your new Yearbook too. Keep the date in mind when talking to prospective members and encourage them to attend our party.

Just a reminder about 2009 tax returns: remember that \$46 of our AAUW dues are now tax-deductible. AAUW (national) is a 501 (c) 3 organization, which allows us to declare the \$46 deduction.

Judith and I send Valentine Hugs to you all. (Keep sending the names and addresses of prospective members to us.)



AAUW News

Human Trafficking Awareness Day / USA

January 11, 2010 marked the first annual Human Trafficking Awareness day in the USA. Most people imagine "human trafficking" occurs in far away countries, but it is now the second largest criminal industry in the world and it is here in the USA as well as in countries throughout the world. The present rate of trafficking in children is already ten times higher than the trans-Atlantic slave trade was at its peak. Human trafficking is a 9 billion dollar per year business. What can we do about this international problem? Become aware of the issue of human trafficking and modern day human slavery in the USA and in the world; advocate for effective policies to protect women and children from human trafficking and slavery; promote awareness of this problem in the USA and in the world to the people you know; support services to aid in the recovery of those who have suffered from being exploited by human trafficking. **Above all else, be aware and be involved.**

AAUW BRANCH MEETING Saturday, February 6, 2010

Social: 9:30-10:00am
Business Meeting: 10:00-11:00am
Program: 11:00-12:00pm
Lunch: 12:00-1:00pm

Place: The Long Beach Yacht Club
6201 Appian Way, Long Beach
(562) 598-9401

Menu:
Steak Salad or Vegetarian
Rolls & butter
Dessert
Coffee & Tea

Price: \$30.00 per person

RSVP by January 29, 2009

Questions: Jean Aldrich (562) 430-8688 or Linda Johnson
(562) 431-2135

Those making a dinner reservation have made a financial commitment and refunds shall not be made.

RESERVATION RETURN

Send your registration and check payable to AAUW Long Beach Branch. Please mail to Jean Friedrichs, 2912 Walker Lee Dr., Los Alamitos, CA 90720, 562-598-9218
Deadline for Reservations, January 29, 2009

Member(s) _____

Phone (Day) _____ Evening _____

Guest(s) _____

Menu:
_____ Steak Salad
_____ Vegetarian Salad

Address(s) _____

No. of Reservations _____ Amount Enclosed _____

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

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In principle and practice, AAUW values in addition, 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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INTEREST GROUPS

Public Policy:

Please contact Betty Ann Rauch 562-431-6679 for information.



Book Chat:

Call Jean for information, everyone is welcome.

Literary Ladies:

Meets the second Monday of the month at Jean Aldrich's home 1PM

Antiques and Collectibles:

Please contact Barbara Gleason 562-421-2206 for information.

Residential Renters Discussion Group:

Residential Renters Discussion Group. We welcome anyone with an interest in residential rentals to our meetings. Reservations are not required but an email/call to Joan at jwg221@aol.com or Ellen Mathis at epmathis@verizon.net will ensure there is a chair at the table for you.

Community Connections:

This group concentrates on collecting and packaging personal care packets for the students at the Mary Bethune Center, an LBUSD school for homeless students.