

NEWS



For Immediate Release:

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Authors Share More Than “A Little Mystery” with American Association Of University Women

Long Beach –Mystery writers Dorothy Howell, Aileen G. Baron and Bob Hamer brought more than a little mystery with archaeology, the FBI and Romance to the American Association of University Women’s (AAUW) Third Annual “Luncheon Most Deadly” fundraiser on Saturday, October 15th at Old Ranch Country Club in Seal Beach. The authors took the audience on their journey as writers and had the audience laughing as they shared their sense of humor.

Dorothy Howell started the afternoon off by sharing that she always wanted to be a writer. Her adventures to reach her dream reflected a scene from her hilarious Haley Randolph series. Howell currently writes for two major New York publishing houses, in two genres, under two names. She’s sold 28 novels. Her books have been translated into a dozen languages, with sales approaching 3 million copies worldwide. Dorothy writes the hilarious Haley Randolph mystery series available in hardcover from Kensington Books. She also writes historical romance novels for Harlequin Silhouette, under the pen name Judith Stacy. Dorothy is a member of the Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, and Romance Writers of America.

Aileen G. Baron has spent her life unearthing the treasures and secrets left behind by previous civilizations. As a professor in the Department of Archaeology at California State University Fullerton, she has travelled all over the world conducting fieldwork. Her mysteries in the Lily Sampson series include: *A Fly Has A Hundred Eyes* and *The Torch of Tangier*, featuring an American archaeologist working in the Middle east during WWII. The third archaeological mystery, *The Gold Of Thrace*, is a stand-alone mystery. Her latest novel, *The Scorpion’s Bite*, is another in the Lily Samson series. Clearly the petite professor embodies the intellect and spunk of her character Lily Sampson!

Bob Hamer spent twenty-six years as a “street agent” for the FBI in assignments lasting anywhere from one day to three years. He has successfully posed as a drug dealer, contract killer, fencer, degenerate gambler, weapons dealer, and white-collar criminal. He received numerous awards throughout his career including the FBI Director’s Award for Distinguished Service. He has appeared on several TV talk shows and has been a technical advisor for “The Inside”, “Angela’s Eyes”, and two episodes of “Law & Order”. His books include *Target Down* (soon to be a movie), *Enemies Among Us: A Thriller*; and a non-fiction memoir: *The Last Undercover*. Bob eventually confessed that one of the biggest requirements with the F.B.I. was to convince the “bad guys” that he was worse than them!

Forty-eight members and guests strolled among the authors, book signing and twenty-one Silent Auction items. Items were donated by: Lakewood Village Irregulars, Naples Rib Company, Huntington Library, the Cerritos Performing Arts Center, AAUW Interest Groups: Antiques & Collectables Group, Book Chat Group, Literary Ladies Group, EX-ITS and members: Kay Hudnall, Sharon Westafer, and Carolyn Magnuson. Book seller was Debbie Mitsch of Mystery Ink Bookstore in Huntington Beach. Approximately \$1,500 was raised to benefit fellowships, research and project grants to women seeking education to better their lives.

Fat, black cat “witches” with brooms sitting in a field of candy corn on golden tablecloths and snappy black napkins lay in wait on tables as everyone took their seats for the luncheon. The adorable centerpieces were made by member Sandra Shelly and were donated later to her daughter’s elementary school classroom. Sandra also made spooky Halloween art pieces of witches, cats, and haunted houses that were displayed among the Silent Auction items.

JoAnn Kuroda, AAUW co-President and **Fay Denny**, Event Chairman welcomed the assembly as they were served a delicious luncheon. Baby field greens wrapped in thin cucumber slices were served with dressings. Roasted chicken

breast with herb cream sauce was the entre with wild rice, nuts and berries, almond green beans and baby carrots. Dessert was followed with a delightful trio of miniature Pumpkin cheesecakes, a surprise announced by Denny.

Committee members distributed door prizes to lucky ticket holders. Door prizes were 3 new cookbooks donated by Judith Kaho, Gift certificates from Finbars, Ross Dress for Less, Hof's Hut, The Huntington Library, the Los Cerritos Performing Arts Center, Forbidden City and Naples Rib Company.

Members of the Committee were **JoAnn Kuroda**, co-President; **Fay Denny** (Chair of Event); **Gail Morrison** (Publicity); **Carolyn Magnuson** (Silent Auction Chair and basket solicitation); **Sandra Shelly** (Centerpieces); **Judith Kaho** (basket decorating); **Sharon Westafer** (Treasurer); **Judith Bergquist** (door check-in); and **Dianne Bradfield** (Door prize solicitation).

Seen at the Scene: Deloris Mayuga, Linda Silver, Lynn Shrum, Julie Taboada, Sunny Meylor, Jean Aldrich, Alison Aldrich, Anne Graves, Barry Bradfield, Dianne Bradfield, Jean Friedrichs, Ellen Mathis, Jere Millington, Barbara Cottrell, Pat Sargeant, Joan Hansen and Louise Grifone.

AAUW Membership is open to those with an AA degree or higher. To learn more about membership in AAUW, please go to www.aauw-longbeach.org.

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Mission Statement: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.