



AAUW-LONG BEACH VANTAGE

January 2009

Long Beach Branch, Vol. 38 Issue 5

Darci Fersch, Program VP

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—WOMENSHELTER OF LONG BEACH January 3, 2009

The WomenShelter has been serving the Long Beach Community since 1977. AAUW Long Beach members have donated needed clothing, furniture, and household items to help the women at the Shelter start their new lives. Our January speaker will provide more information about this valuable resource in Long Beach.



TuLynn Smylie is the Executive Director of the Shelter, which is the oldest agency in Long Beach serving victims of domestic violence. On January 3, 2009, at the Skylinks Golf Course, off Lakewood Boulevard, Ms. Smylie will speak to us about the Shelter and how it has helped its clients overcome the pain of physical and emotional abuse and move on to a healthy and productive life for themselves and their children. The mission of the WomenShelter is to help end the cycle of domestic violence through intervention, prevention, and education. Domestic violence is not confined to one type of family or one type of relationship. It knows no boundary of profession or education, of race, religion, or nationality. The Shelter provides counseling, support groups, or a safe place to stay giving a person time to think things through. The staff help women talk through the

options and decide which one is best for them. Year-round, the Shelter generally runs at full capacity, sheltering approximately 250 victims and their children.

For more information about WomenShelter of Long Beach call 562 437 7233 or go to its web site at www.womenshelterlb.org

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

The nominating committee for executive board officers for the 2009-2010 branch year was elected at the November branch meeting. The committee members are JoAnn Kuroda, Betty Thompson, Deloris Mayuga, Bobbi Burket, Carol Smith, Carolyn Magnuson and Joan Gustafson, Chair. Please contact Joan Gustafson, 562-439-3130, jwg221@aol.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. or Secretary.

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 were saddened to learn that long time member, Erla Honig, passed away in November. No obituary. A condolence card was sent to the Bixby Towers to be forwarded to her family.

Recently we were advised that Honorary Life Member, Virginia Forbeck, died in August 2007. No further information is available.

An African proverb: "When you educate a boy, you educate an individual, but if you educate a girl, you educate a community".

Birthday greetings to all January honorees.

We wish all of you a healthy, happy New Year.

May our friendships never come apart especially when they straight from the heart. May you always have a rainbow of smiles on your face and in your heart forever.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Planned Monthly Branch Meetings

- 1/3 Lunch, Skylinks Golf Course
TuLynn Smylie, Executive Director,
WomenShelter Long Beach
- 2/7 Lunch, Leisure World
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: Home of Jean Aldrich
- 6/6 Lunch, Old Ranch Country Club
Installation of New Officers

*4/2—Thursday evening meeting

**Prospective New Members
Welcome at Every Meeting**

LACIC meetings are the 4th Monday of alternating months. Contact Linda Patten for more information.

BOARD BRIEF--The Executive Board met on November 17, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Linda Patten. Regular business was conducted. The following motions were presented: It was moved by and seconded that the mentees and mentors have a fundraiser for their activities at the 2008 Wassail selling necklaces for \$5.00 each. Motion passed. It was moved and seconded that an investment policy for the Branch be developed and written by an Investment Committee of five members appointed by the President with the goal of approval of the policy by May, 2009, prior to the maturation of the May Certificate of Deposit. Motion passed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

All are held on the third Monday of October, January, March, and May and start at 6:30 PM. At St. Luke's: 1/19, 3/16, and 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: 12/15; 2/16; 4/20

AAUW-LONG BEACH WEBSITE: <http://www.aauw-longbeach.org>
Webmaster: – Amy Savarese email her at amy@amypatten.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many of you have received your 2008-2009 Yearbook. Ellen Mathis' article below discusses the changes to the Yearbook this year. We are not publishing a full Yearbook each year, to reduce our operating expenses.

Your President, EF Chair, and Public Policy Chair had the opportunity to attend the Los Angeles County Interbranch Council meeting in Lost Hills to hear Kathleen Cha, the Director at Large for AAUW, speak about the proposed changes in our national organization. She emphasized that with education comes responsibility; this idea fits with our role as social-change agents. Ms. Cha mentioned that the proposed change to drop the educational requirement is not unprecedented. In the beginning, only university graduates could belong; in 1960, we started to accept those state college degrees. Recently, we expanded our members to include those with community college degrees and other credentials.

Notable too is the **voluntary** on-line dues collection at Association; a member could opt to pay by credit card; this method would aid in accurate record keeping at the national level and promote consistency with the state and branch records. The logical question then is what about our AAUW-CA affiliation? It would be voluntary as well; we could decide if we would like to belong to the California "region," just as our members could determine if they would like to continue their connection with the branch.

In all, eighteen articles will be posted on the AAUW website early in January, complete with detailed explanations, questions and answers, and surely a lively discussion on the blog will follow. Your branch will also specify a time and place in March, perhaps after the March branch meeting at The Grand, to review and discuss these momentous proposals. Next month, this space will provide an explanation of the voting process and the expansion of LAF. Ms. Cha recounted the statement of a northern California Indian woman who said, "One woman alone gives inspiration but a group of women give transformation."

Registration is now open for the 2009 AAUW Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. It will be at this conference that we will vote on all of these significant proposed changes to the organization.

Ellen Mathis, Yearbook/Database Chair

NEW 2008/2009 YEARBOOK

Yearbooks that were not distributed in November and December have been mailed. If you did not receive yours, contact the Yearbook Chair, Ellen Mathis, epmathis@verizon.net or 562 433 5609. There was a slight change in the formatting in the member listing. The first column lists the name, phone number, and email address. The phone number in the right hand column is a cell phone number, if the member has one. Page 13 in the Yearbook defines this format. The other change was to decrease the font size of the bylaws, policies and procedures and standing rules in order to decrease the number of pages (thereby decreasing the cost of printing). If there are any corrections or changes be sure to let me know so they can be updated in the database.

YOUR EF DOLLARS AT WORK

The EF Northern and Southern Luncheons are over and what a great success! Over 275 men and women attended this year's EF Luncheons. What a pleasure to hear the Fellows up close and personal. Their research and projects are awesome and their personal stories make you feel proud that you donate to the Educational Foundation. While listening to their stories, we heard repeatedly how much they truly appreciated the fellowships and grants and how it made a difference in their life.

The AAUW Educational Foundation is committed to breaking down educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. For more than a century, AAUW has advanced educational and professional opportunities for women; nationally- and globally-funding women pursuing advanced degrees; fostering girls' achievement and gender equity; and supporting women entering new or nontraditional careers. As one of the world's premier sources of funding for women's education, AAUW provided more than 260 fellowships and grants in 2008- 2009.

During the 2008-2009 academic year, the AAUW Educational Foundation provided a total of \$4,452,200 to 271 recipients. As you can see, AAUW is still one of the largest sources of funding exclusively for graduate women. You can be proud that California continues to be the top contributor to EF.

Jere Millington, Co-Chair, International Eaters Organization

THE INTERNATIONAL EATERS ORGANIZATION

The International Eaters Organization (big smile) is meeting on January 15 (a Thursday) at 5:30 PM at a Vietnamese restaurant in Westminster called "S." It's behind Macy and Target's parking lot at 545 Westminster Mall Drive just off Bolsa Ave. We can order off the menu individually, depending on the attendance. We have a lot of fun so please try to attend and make your tummy happy!

Please RSVP by January 12 to Jere Millington 714-891-2183.

Patricia Ferrer, Assistant to the Treasurer

CAN YOU HELP US FIND A NEW HEADQUARTERS?

Our Headquarters Office at St. Luke's is paid for by interest earned on our two building fund Certificates of Deposit. Over the past year, the rent has increased but the interest earned has significantly decreased. St. Luke's did decrease its proposed costs due to this, but we are still spending more than we earn. We will have no choice other than to take money out of one of our Certificates of Deposit to pay our rental and maintenance expense this year. If you are aware of a member, church or another non-profit that would like to rent to us a small office space at \$300 or less per month, please let me know right away. Your input will be discussed at our January 19, 2009, Board of Directors meeting. Please send me your input at panderoh@aol.com or call me at 562 597 4781.

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION UPDATE

Fay Denny and I attended the Southern Fellows luncheon in November and heard some wonderful women, and one man, tell about what their fellowships and grants mean to them. It was an inspiring afternoon and our commitment to EF was reinforced. Hearing about the Fellows' projects and studies makes our fundraising efforts much more meaningful.

December marks the end of the fundraising year for EF and once again our branch members can be proud of their generosity. This year, including our Chocolate club, 2nd Century club, Century club and branch donations, we sent \$9,489 to be applied to the Long Beach Research and Projects Grant.

The Wassail was a wonderful way to begin the holiday season. Thanks to JoAnn Kuroda, Darci Fersch, Fay Denny, and their committee for organizing the event. Special thanks to all of you who helped with sales, donated money, auction items, and or/books. Thank you to Helen and Fred Sebring, who once again offered their lovely mountain home as an auction item. Carol Smith and Darci Fersch and their families will be enjoying the cabin during the ski season.

Fundraising events for January through November are listed below. As always, members generously donated to EF. Here is the listing for all our fundraising events:

Chocolate Club, 2 nd Century Club, Century Club, etc.	\$5,204.00
Fantasy Trip to China (includes \$1400 in 2 nd Century and Century Club donations listed above)	\$2,166.00
Silent Auction-Wassail	\$1,086.00
Self-catered luncheon-October branch meeting	\$ 860.00
Huntington Library bus trip	\$ 565.00
Evening at the Theater	\$ 400.00
Gently Used Book Sale	\$ 237.00
Pin, Coin purse, T-shirt sales	\$ 195.00
Bunco	\$ 160.00

Thank you again for your generous support!

Carol Smith and Fay Denny, Co-Membership VPs

AAUW LONG BEACH BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

Happy New Year to all of our AAUW Branch members!! We have a wonderful year before us with exciting programs and opportunities to involve others in our work to improve the status of women and girls in our community. Our Branch activities have engaged a number of people this year, resulting in increasing numbers of new members who have joined our Branch. Our New Member Coordinator, Flo Pickett, has done a wonderful job of outreaching to these new members to involve them in our Branch and its activities, but she cannot do it alone.

We want all of our newer members to feel welcomed and we want to involve them in Branch activities that might interest them. Please look for our new members at our monthly meetings. Our Branch nametags now identify our new members--they have a bright pink stripe below their names on their nametags for the first year of their involvement with us. When you see someone with a nametag with a bright pink stripe, please stop and greet them and chat for a few moments. You can make the difference in the life of a new member who comes to a meeting knowing no one (do you remember how that feels?). Community is everything--please look for our new members and reach out to them.

Happy New Year to all of you from your Membership Coordinators, Fay Denny and Carol Smith

A HISTORY OF TECH TREK

The following article is condensed from a speech given by Marie Wolbach, as she received the Pine Manor College Award for Inclusive Leadership and Social Responsibility.

The idea for Tech Trek was born from reading the AAUW report "How Schools Shortchange Girls" in 1992, identifying with many items in it, and thinking about concrete ways to change things. My children all loved going to a simple campground for three days of science/environmental camp and I considered doing something locally for girls only. Then I heard that women in Ohio took girls for a weekend of science camp. I visualized the difference it would make if time could be spent living on a college campus and include girls all across California.

Opportunity knocked in 1996 when AAUW-CA President Karen Manelis and the Board of Directors approved my submission of a grant to the AAUW Educational Foundation. EF funded the request in 1997 and serious planning for Tech Trek began.

The first camp opened at Stanford University in 1998 with AAUW branches supporting 150 students, twice as many girls as we had predicted.

The stated goals of Tech Trek were to encourage young women to take math and science courses each year in high school; motivate students to attend college, inspire young women to select majors which lead to careers in science, technology, engineering or math.

Two unstated goals were to build self-confidence and leadership in the attendees. Those were met in the first year. The student chosen by Sacramento AAUW was a very quiet girl, daughter of Hmong immigrants who never left their new city. She was thrilled to see San Francisco and the ocean, telling me that she wished she could stay another week. Later, the Sacramento branch president shared the exchange that took place when the student gave a report at the September AAUW meeting. She said she ran for class president and won. When asked if she had planned that for a long time, she replied, "Oh, no. I never expected to do that. Then when AAUW picked me to go to science camp, I thought that if they did that, maybe I could do some other things, too."

We're often asked why 7th grade girls are selected. That's because of the information in the research report that showed girls tend to drop the more challenging subjects at that time, succumbing to the temptation to spend more time in social activities. This camp experience would be good for young women at any age but quotes from former students confirm our decision to select middle school girls.

There are many statistics in the survey report, "The Impact of the AAUW California Tech Trek Science Camp for Girls." I brought several copies of the booklet but I'll mention a few important findings. For 35% of the respondents, a language other than English is spoken at home. Three percent (3%) are the first in their family to graduate from high school and 11% are the first in family to attend college.

It was dramatic to tabulate how many Tech Trek girls later took advanced courses in math and science, far above the national average. Especially surprising was the number of students who responded that Tech Trek was their best academic experience in middle school or high school.

We will be holding our Tech Trek fundraiser in the near future. Please donate to Tech Trek to help us send at least four girls to camp this summer.

NEW MEMBERS SOCIAL

AAUW new members will have their monthly social event on Thursday, January 15, 2009, between 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM at the home of Flo Pickett, 2919 Studebaker Rd, Long Beach. Come any time you can for wine and cheese and light refreshments. Get to know other AAUW members and learn more about the organization and each other. Bring a friend if you like. All interested members who wish to share information about their favorite part of AAUW-LB are invited also. RSVP's are appreciated. Please call Flo at 562 421-5348.

JANUARY BRANCH MEETING INFORMATION AND RSVP FORM

AAUW BRANCH MEETING SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2009

SKYLINKS GOLF COURSE
4800 E. Wardlow Rd
Long Beach, CA 90808
562 421-3388

Social: 9:30-10:00 AM
Business Meeting: 10:00-11:00 AM
Program: 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
Lunch: 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM

Menu: Buffet lunch with green salad, cole slaw, quiche, sandwiches, fruit plate, and assorted cookies.

Choice of beverage

Price: \$27.00

Questions: Jean Aldrich (562-430-8688), Barbara Cottrell (562 431-2445) or JoAnn Kuroda (562 429-6923)

Deadline: December 29, 2008

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

Parking at the SE or NE corner of Wardlow and Lakewood

RESERVATION RETURN

Send your registration and check payable to AAUW Long Beach Branch. Please mail to Bobbi Burket, PO Box 90502, Long Beach, CA 90809. (562) 599 3927

Deadline for Reservations, December 29, 2008

Member(s)

Phone (Day) _____ Evening _____

Guest(s)

Address(s)

No. of Reservations ____ Amount Enclosed _____

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

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

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INTEREST GROUPS

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

Book Chat Plus, please contact Jean Friedrichs 562 598 2918 for more information

Great Books please contact Linda Patten 562 402-6831.

Community Connections please contact Anne Supple for more information, 562 665 8361

Literary Ladies meet the second Monday of the month at Jean Aldrich's home 1PM. Our January book selection is "The Book Thief." 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 more information.

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

Other Wednesday Bridge 1st & 3rd Wednesday Noon – 4:00 PM Emily Elgin 562 498-0646

Friday Bridge 2nd Friday 9:30 AM – Noon Cathy Cunningham 562 424-3166

Editor: Patricia A. Ferrer, panderoh@aol.com 562-597-4781



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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