



AAUW-LONG BEACH VANTAGE

February 2009

Long Beach Branch, Vol. 38 Issue 6

Darci Fersch, Program VP

A PARTNER DEDICATED TO HELP THE COMMUNITY THRIVE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR—PORT OF LONG BEACH

**J. Chris Lytle
February 7, 2009**



J. Chris (Christopher) Lytle, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Port of Long Beach, will be our speaker at the February 7, 2009, Saturday Branch Meeting.

Mr. Lytle will discuss some history of the Port and what makes it one of America's premier seaports. The Port moves trade valued annually at more than \$100 billion making it the second busiest seaport in the United States. The Port supports more than 30,000 jobs in Long Beach, 316,000 jobs throughout Southern California and 1.4 million jobs throughout the United States. It generates about \$16 billion in annual trade-related wages statewide. Mr. Lytle will also tell us about their "Green Port Policy" that guides efforts to minimize or eliminate negative environmental impacts and includes innovative environmental programs.

Please join us for a very informative program to be held at Leisure World in Seal Beach.

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

"Remember your loved ones on St. Valentine's Day."

Birthday greetings to all February honorees.
Awesome: you share the month with Presidents.

"All our dreams come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." Walt Disney.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- 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

Los Angeles County Interbranch Council Meeting will take place on Monday, January 26, 2009, at Downey City Library, 11121 Brookshire Ave, Downey, CA. Networking starts at 6:30 PM; Program, at 7:00 PM. Program includes 3 SpeechTrek competitors and a presentation from Junior Achievement regarding its Finance Park.

More information about AAUW LACIC may be found at sites.google.com/site/aauwlacic.

BOARD BRIEF-- At the Executive Board Meeting on December 15, 2008, in the home of Linda Patten, regular business was conducted. Because of a shortfall in funds for the Branch Headquarters, the following motion was made: Patricia Ferrer moved that the board recommend to the Branch that \$2500 be taken from the Imperial Capital Bank, Bldg Fund #1 that comes due March 18, 2009. This money will be placed in the building fund to cover rental expense for the remainder of the fiscal year. The motion was seconded and passed. **The branch will vote on this motion at the February branch meeting.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

All are held on the third Monday of October, January, March, and May and start at 6:30 PM. **The January 19th meeting will be held at Linda Patten's.** The others on 3/16, and 5/18 (Joint meeting with old and new boards) are still scheduled at St. Luke's.

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

Webmaster: – Amy Savarese: Email her at amy@amypatten.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As mentioned last month in this space, your delegates to the AAUW Convention will be voting on historic changes in the by-laws. This commentary will continue the report on the Kathleen Cha's talk about the current and proposed changes to AAUW. You will recall she spoke at the LACIC (Los Angeles County Interbranch Council) meeting in November. She explained the Legal Advocacy Fund has expanded its focus beyond academia to concentrate only on well-known cases – such as the recent Lily Ledbetter suit. The new emphasis will spotlight workplace issues; LAF seeks to replace the “glass ceiling” with “a labyrinth of leadership.” The AAUW Action Fund: a 501[c]4 will be insulated from the AAUW 501[c]3, which is the tax deductible arm of our organization.

Even though there are changes in the arrangement of Association, our branch can retain its current structure. Should the proposed by-laws pass though, no longer will there be a requirement of a minimum of twenty-five members per branch. Additionally, each branch will have the opportunity to belong to a “region.” In California, the change will be less apparent because our region would be the entire state.

It is proposed that the delegate system will be replaced by *one member, one vote*. Note that each article of the by-laws will be voted on at the convention, with or without amendments and will need a majority to pass. After the vote for each article, all eighteen articles will be voted on en masse – a 2/3 majority will be needed to pass the by-laws. That means all or none will be adopted! These articles may be posted on the www.aauw.org website by the time, or very soon after you receive this newsletter.

Be part of this significant process: please review the articles and make your opinions known. You may take part in the on-line discussion (AAUW blog) but definitely be prepared to discuss them after the Branch Meeting in March – we will be allowed to occupy the room at **The Grand** until two o'clock. Let your delegates know your wishes so they may give you the best possible representation at the June Convention.

On-line applications for Association Leadership and Committee positions are available now.

Ellen Mathis, Yearbook/Database Chair

NEW INTEREST GROUP—RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

At January's Branch meeting, it was announced that a new interest group is forming. It will be a discussion group on residential rentals. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, February 18th, at 10 am at the home of Joan Gustafson. At the first meeting, we will have a topic list provided from which to pick discussion topics for future meetings. We will be happy to add topics to it as well. We will also spend some time getting to know each other's interests in residential rentals. Especially during these tough economic times, a number of members felt a group of this type would be beneficial to those in the rental business as well as those who have thought about investing in rental property. We hope to see you on at the first meeting. Reservations are not required but you could email Joan at jwg221@aol.com or Ellen Mathis at epmathis@verizon.net that we can expect you.

AN ELITE GROUP

An elite group comprising almost twenty percent of our membership (25 of 127) will be participating in the 2009 Great Decisions Program discussion. The Great Decisions books have been ordered for 25 participants and should be coming in two weeks. Then, either Helen or Lamis will distribute them to the coordinator for each group: Tuesday morning, Wednesday evening, and Friday afternoon. Each group leader will call the members to decide to begin with a first meeting and hand out the books.

We wish you a great New Year of learning, sharing ideas and enjoying your groups. The next job for this committee is to find the perfect speaker for the April meeting. If any of you have ideas for someone, particularly after you read the discussion titles, please call Lamis or Helen.

Gail Morrison, Administrative Assistant

MATH CURRICULUM IS A WINNER

Gail submitted the following article from her MSU Today magazine.

"Connected Mathematics," a three-year curriculum developed at MSU for middle school students and teachers, was one of two winners of the first ISDDE Prize for Excellence in Educational Design from the International Society for Design and Development in Education (ISDDE).

Glenda Lappan, University Distinguished Professor of mathematics, and Elizabeth Phillips, senior academic specialist in the Division of Science and Mathematics Education, received the award for excellence in design of educational products and materials in science or mathematics.

Thousands of middle school math students have used the acclaimed curriculum to learn to reason and communicate proficiently in mathematics. Throughout development and use of the curriculum, extensive research has assured that students developed skills, resources, and knowledge that go beyond computational skills. The National Science Foundation first funded the project in 1991.

Royalties from curriculum sales support the Lappan-Phillips-Fitzgerald Endowed Chair in Mathematics Education, the first of its kind at MSU and one of the few such endowed mathematics education chairs in the nation. The endowment was created to continue the commitment to improving the teaching and learning of mathematics through research and development.

"These products are delightful to use in otherwise ordinary circumstances, effective for learning important and difficult mathematics, and original contributions to the field of design," according to Phillip Daro, senior fellow for mathematics of America's Choice, a co-director of Tools for Change at the University of California at Berkeley, and chair of the ISDDE awards committee.

ISDDE's goal is to improve the impact on education of the design and development of educational materials, especially in math, science, and technology. The awards, known as Eddies, include a prize of \$10,000.

“George Washington Slept Here” Fundraiser for EF

Here’s a great way to celebrate Valentine’s Day early! Join us for an evening of theater on Friday, February 13th, when the Long Beach Playhouse presents “George Washington Slept Here.” Created by Moss Hart and George Kaufman, this comedy, featured as a “classical farce,” will be a lighthearted way to start your Valentine’s weekend. The original 1942 comedy film starred Jack Benny and Ann Sheridan. Contact Jean Friedrichs or Sharon Westafer for tickets and information. The cost is \$20 with \$10 going to EF. Please keep in mind that if you sign up to attend, you are obligated to pay unless you find a substitute.

Thank you again to all of you who support EF.

Information from AAUW.org

AAUW compiles current information and resources for as many issues as possible to provide central issue pages that offer the freshest information and most effective avenues for action on issues important to you. Below summarizes AAUW’s 110th Legislative Agenda. If you receive this online, you can click the links in blue below for more information.

CIVIL RIGHTS

AAUW advocates equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.

- [Affirmative Action](#)
- [Federal Judicial Nominations](#)
- [Hate Crimes Prevention](#)
- [Reproductive Rights](#)

ECONOMIC SECURITY

AAUW advocates for all women to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

- [Family Friendly Workplaces](#)
- [Pay Equity](#)
- [Social Security](#)

EDUCATION

AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity.

- [Career and Technical Education](#)
- [Charter Schools](#)
- [Disabilities](#)
- [Education and Training in Welfare/TANF](#)
- [Higher Education](#)
- [No Child Left Behind Act](#)
- [School Vouchers](#)
- [Single-Sex Education](#)
- [Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics \(STEM\) Education](#)
- Title IX (see entry right)

TITLE IX

AAUW supports vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education.

- [Title IX](#)
- [Equity in School Athletics](#)
- [Sexual Harassment](#)
- [Single-Sex Education](#)

PUBLIC POLICY

Members of AAUW's Lobby Corps, in conjunction with like-minded organizations, has successfully lobbied Congress for the passage of a number of laws for which they have advocated for a number of years. A number of additional bills have been furthered and passage in 2009 appears to be probable.

- Successfully advocated for the enactment of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, the first reauthorization in 10 years. Action Network members helped ensure that the law contains many longtime AAUW priorities, including Pell grants available year-round, expanding the population of qualified individuals – particularly women and minorities – in STEM fields, establishing the Patsy Mink Graduate Fellowship Program, increasing funding for campus child care, and aligning the HEA hate crimes reporting categories with the ones used by the FBI.
- Convinced both Congress and the White House to pass the GI Bill for the 21st Century. The new law fully restores the promise of a four-year college education for post 9/11 veterans, putting the benefits back on a par with those available after World War II.
- Successfully pushed for passage of a new law that ensures that student loans remain available during tight economic times. In addition, the legislation also addressed another key AAUW priority by expanding SMART grants to part-time students, the majority of whom are women. SMART grants are additional grants that Pell-eligible students can receive if they major in a STEM field or critical foreign language.

Below is some of the other legislation AAUW will be working on with the new Congress.

- Increase Senate support for the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which will counter the Supreme Court's misguided decision in the *Ledbetter v. Goodyear* case.
- Increase awareness of the pay gap between men and women through programming based on AAUW's Pay Equity Resource Kit.
- Urge House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to make expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act a priority in the 111th Congress.

From www.aauw.org/convention/

2009 Convention: Breaking Through Barriers

Registration is now open for the 2009 AAUW Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, June 26 to 28, 2009, Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel and Suites. Best value registration is \$375, but it closes January 15. Early bird registration is \$399 and it closes March 22. After that date, conference registration will be \$440.

Start your search early to get the best airfares. American Airlines is offering AAUW members a 5 percent discount on American Airlines flights for convention! Call 800/433-1790 and use code **A1269AS** to book your tickets today. Or, to book online, visit American Airlines and enter the above code. Information on discount rental car services will be forthcoming.

Branch members that have indicated that they plan to attend include Fay Denny, Sharon Westafer, Frances Rozner, and Patricia Ferrer. This is an important convention, as delegates will decide many important issues for the organization— including eliminating any college degree requirement for membership.

NEW MEMBERS SOCIAL

New members are invited to our monthly social-orientation at the home of Flo Pickett on Thursday, February 12 between 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM for wine, cheese, and getting acquainted. "Established" members are also welcome to come and talk to new members about their special interests in AAUW. Please call for more information or to RSVP: Flo Pickett (562 421-5348) or email Flo (flopickett@earthlink.net).

FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING INFORMATION AND RSVP FORM

AAUW BRANCH MEETING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009

LEISURE WORLD SEAL BEACH

13533 Seal Beach Blvd.
Seal Beach, CA 90740
562-594-4754 Clubhouse 4, Room A

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

Menu: Hot Deviled Chicken Salad
Vegetable, Fruit Salad
Rolls and Butter
Chocolate Eclairs
Tea and Coffee

Vegetarian meal on request

Cost: \$11.00

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

Deadline: January 31, 2009

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

Leisure World is on the West Side of Seal Beach Blvd. between 405-22 Freeways and Westminster Avenue (2nd St. in Long Beach). When entering the gate please advise the security gate that you are an AAUW member and attending a meeting in Clubhouse 4. Room A.

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, JANUARY 31, 2009

Member(s)

Phone (Day) _____ Evening _____

Guest(s)

Address(s)

No. of Reservations ____ Amount Enclosed _____

Vegetarian Meal Requested _____

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.

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

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

Book Chat Plus will meet at the home of Jean Friedrichs on Tuesday, February 3rd at 10:30 AM. Everyone is invited to join this friendly book discussion group to tell us about your recent reading. Call Jean at 562-598-9218 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 February book selection is "The Friday Night Knitting Club." 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	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday	Noon – 4:00 PM	Emily Elgin	562 498-0646
Friday Bridge	2 nd 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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