



AAUW-LONG BEACH VANTAGE

March 2009

Long Beach Branch, Vol. 38 Issue 7

Darci Fersch, Program VP

PRESIDENCY, MEDIA, GENDER, AND RACE IN AN AMERICAN CONTEXT

**Dr. Caroline Heldman
Saturday, March 7, 2009**



We are delighted to have Dr. Caroline Heldman as speaker for our March program to be held Saturday, March 7, 2009, at The Grand in Long Beach.. Dr. Heldman earned her Ph.D. in Political Science from Rutgers University, and is currently an Assistant Professor at Occidental College in Los Angeles. She has published in the top journals in her field, and has co-authored *Rethinking Madame President: Are We Ready for a Woman in the White House*. She specializes in the presidency, media, gender, and race in the American context. Prior to teaching at Occidental College, Professor Heldman taught at Whittier College, Fairfield University, and Rutgers University. She holds a BA in business administration from Washington State University, and has worked as the General Manager for

Bio-Energy Systems and a Research Manager for Consumer Health Sciences. Dr. Heldman has also been active in “real world” politics as a congressional staffer, campaign manager, campaign consultant, and political activist.

Please join us to hear this speaker talk about this topic issue. Remember prospective members are always welcome.

ALL DAY READ OF THREE CUPS OF TEA

Make your way to the 2nd Street, Belmont Shore branch of Washington Mutual bank on Saturday, March 1, to hear a continuous reading of the Long Beach Reads One Book: *Three Cups of Tea*. Join Gail Morrison and Linda Patten, who will be reading between 1:30 and 2:00, to raise awareness of our branch and the heroic work of Greg Mortensen, AAUW member, and author of this inspirational book. For more information go to www.justinrudd.com/read.html.

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

Our long time member, Liz Jackson, is now residing at the Sunrise Assisted Living of Seal Beach, 3850 Lampson Ave., Seal Beach 90740. Get well cards would brighten her day.

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of Dr. Eileen Lothamer, past president 1974-75, on January 13, 2009 in Arizona. A contribution to EF was made in her name.

We are sad to report that Letitia Corum passed away January 3, 2009. She was a long time active member of AAUW and held many positions on branch, state and national committees, and boards. Many of our branch members may have known her.

A condolence card was sent to Mary Ellen Kilsby whose husband Graham passed away February 1, 2009.

Birthday greetings to all March honorees
Happy St. Patrick's Day!

"If we all did the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves." Thomas A. Edison

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- 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 MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

WOMENSHELTER NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS

The WomenShelter of Long Beach needs our help. Among the items that are desperately needed are all baby related objects, boy's clothing, women's underwear, P.J.'s, slippers, comfortable clothing, educational videos, Target gift cards, used cell phones and more. Upon request, a complete list can be e-mailed to you by Linda Patten. Please call Linda Moore or Anne Supple for pickup. Or just drop off at Lou Es Greene's house.

BOARD BRIEF-- The Joint Board of AAUW Long Beach Branch met on January 19, 2009, at the home of Linda Patten. Regular business was conducted. The following motions were made:

- It was moved by Sharon Westafer, Education Foundation chairman, to have a theatre night fund raiser on February 13 at the Long Beach Playhouse, to sell women pins, coin purses and other items at the AAUW State Convention and to have a gently used book sale at the garden party in May. Motion seconded by Gail Morrison. Motion passed.
- It was moved by Anne Supple, co-chairman of Tech Trek that the branch have a fund raiser for Tech Trek at the regular branch meeting to send 5 students to the Tech Trek camp at \$800.00 per student. \$2400.00 needed for the project. Motion seconded by Frances Rozner. Discussion - approach Bank of America to ask for support for the project. Motion passed.
- It was moved by Fay Denny that the Long Beach Branch of AAUW sponsor a Mystery Writers program on October 24, 2009, as an Education Foundation fund raising event. Motion was seconded by JoAnn Kuroda. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS: Will be held the third Monday of February and April at Linda Patten's home starting at 6:30 PM.

BOARD MEETINGS: The **MARCH 16 board meeting will be held at Iacoboni Library in Lakewood (4990 Clark Ave) starting at 5:45 PM.** The Joint May Board meeting (May 17) is still scheduled for St. Lukes.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You may recall being notified about the Write Girl Bold Ink Awards at the 20th Century Fox studios. Sharon Westafer, Carol Smith and your president attended; to support one of our newer members, Celine Malanum, and the girls who participate in the Write Girl program. We enjoyed a lively and entertaining evening. We laughed with and admired the recipients of the awards; women screenwriters, a poet, a journalist, novelists and a songwriter – but the true highlight of the event was the mentors and the girls who read their poetry. As you may know, Celine is the program director for Write Girl, a writing program for at-risk high school students; which has an astounding success rate with their graduation and college admission rate among the students they have mentored.

In an attempt to keep our members informed, reduce waste paper, and save time and money for our secretaries, we will discontinue making multiple copies of the minutes. They will be e-mailed to all members. A few copies will be made available to our members who do not have e-mail at the branch meeting. The paper minutes will be easily identified by the colored paper. Please contact Linda Patten if you have an e-mail account and have not received the minutes of the January branch meeting.

Please note the change in location and time for the March 16 Board of Directors meeting! Arrival time will be 5:45 p.m., with the meeting to begin at 6:00 p.m. We must be out of the facility by 8:00 p.m. It will take place at the Iacoboni Library in Lakewood, located on the east side of Clark Street and north of Del Amo; across from Home Depot at:

**Angelo M. Iacoboni Library
4990 Clark Avenue
Lakewood, 90712-2676
(562) 866-1777**

Lastly, the proposed changes in the bylaws are now on the Association website at aauw.com. You will also find an introduction and explanations as well as a Frequently Asked Question section. Plan to attend the extended March 7 branch meeting; you will have an opportunity to discuss the amendments, and make your opinions and wishes known to your convention delegates.

Barbara Gleason, Financial Secretary

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

On Sunday, February 15, we will meet at the L. B. Outdoor Antique and Collectible Market at Veterans Stadium, 5000 E. Lew Davis Street (stop light) just south of LBCC -- Liberal Arts Campus at 9:00 AM. (It opens at 6:30 am if you want to go that early) Admission is \$5.00 -- look for a 50 cent coupon, usually in the Press-Telegram. At noon, we'll meet at my house 4556 Graywood (north of the market about 1/2 of a mile.) We can have "show and tell" of treasures you may have found. We will then have a lunch of lasagna and salad. If you aren't up to the market, just come for lunch!

IT IS TIME FOR TECH TREK FUNDRAISING

From the research AAUW has done, it is apparent that middle-school is the time when girls often feel discouraged from studying math, science, technology, and engineering subjects and avoid registering for these vital classes. For thirteen years, your branch has sponsored low income middle-school girls to attend Tech Trek camp, a weeklong summer camp that focuses on these very important subjects. The campers will be chosen among the nominations made by the 7th grade math and science teachers from Constellation Middle-School and Powell Academy. Your Tech Trek committee will make the final camper selections based on the applicant's 1-2 page essay and in-person interviews.

This year, the cost of sending one girl is \$800.00. We hope to send five (5) girls; last year one of our members sponsored one camper ... won't you consider it too? We are grateful for your check, in any amount, made payable to AAUW CA, SPF. Please mail to: Linda Patten, 19615 Jeffrey Cir., Cerritos, CA 90703-7331 by February 25. Your donation is tax-deductible and will provide a life-changing experience for each girl our branch sends. Thank you.

CHECK OUT THE NEXT IEO

The International Eaters Organization (IEO) has scheduled the next gastronomic get-together on Thursday, March 19, 6:30 p.m. at Baja Sonora, 2940 Clark Avenue (at Spring) in the strip mall next to the trophy shop. This tried and true excellent Mexican restaurant is inexpensive with the best tacos in town. A few years ago, Sunset Magazine featured this restaurants as having some of the best tacos in the Western United States. Join the festivities including great companionship and mucho buena comida food.

For reservations, contact Daphne Ching-Jackson at 562 377-1670, no later than Tuesday, March 17th to ensure a seat.

Joan Gustafson, Chair, Nominating Committee

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee is pleased to announce the list of nominees for the following board offices for 2009-2010:

Program Co-Vice President: Carol Smith and Darlene Daclan
Membership Co-Vice President: Fay Denny and Judith Kaho
Educational Foundation Co-Vice President: Dianne Bradfield and Betty Shaw
Legal Advocacy Fund Vice President: Carolyn Magnuson
Co-Secretary: Bobbi Burket and Pat Aldridge
President-Elect: Sharon Westafer

Thank you to these members for accepting nominations and to those of you who helped with suggestions. Elections will be held at our April 2, 2009, dinner meeting, at the Assistance League Headquarters.

Committee members are: JoAnn Kuroda, Betty Thompson, Bobbi Burket, Carolyn Magnuson, Carol Smith, Deloris Mayuga and Joan Gustafson, Chair.

Carol Smith, Fay Denny Co-Membership VPs

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Prospective members joining AAUW after March 15th will have dues paid through June 2010! That means they have March through June, 2009 as an added benefit of membership. March is Women's History month and what better way of honoring women than by becoming a member of AAUW.

What has AAUW done on behalf of women and girls?

- When the Department of Education established a commission that threatened to dismantle the enforcement provisions of Title IX, AAUW mobilized a nationwide outcry to help protect this landmark civil rights law.
- We awarded over \$4 million in grants and fellowships to over 250 extraordinary women for 2008-2009.
- Our members take "two minutes" to send communiqués directly to their congress person on issues of concern to women and girls. And the recent successful passage of the Lilly Ledbetter legislation by Congress is a testimony of AAUW's leadership.
- We sponsor branch programs and student conferences where participants grow personally and advance AAUW's mission.

You, as members of AAUW, have much to be proud about and wouldn't you like to share future accomplishments with other women who should become members of AAUW? Send the names and addresses of prospective members for our branch to Carol Smith or me. We'll be very happy to follow-up with information about AAUW to them.

MEET LONG BEACH BRANCH EF FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS-PART 1

Each year the endowments established by California branches in honor of state presidents, branches or branch members fund women scholars or community action projects. This year, one Fellowship recipient is in California, the rest are studying throughout the United States. Here is how our branch EF donations work for EF:

American Fellowships support women doctoral candidates completing dissertations and scholars seeking funds for postdoctoral research leave or for preparing completed research for publication. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. The Long Beach branch established and completed the Louise Ruth Arbogast American Fellowship Endowment in 1986.

Erin Kelleher is the 2008-2009 recipient of the Louise Ruth Arbogast American Fellowship Endowment. She is studying for her Ph.D. in Genetics at the University of Arizona, Tucson. Erin's project is Evolution of Reproductive Tract Interactions in Cactophilic *Drosophila* (a species of fly that breed in specific cacti). Erin's research examines the physiological and molecular evolution of interactions that occur between male ejaculates and female reproductive tracts. She is broadly interested in the role of co-evolution in driving adaptation and speciation and hopes to pursue a career in academic research.

International Fellowships are awarded for full-time graduate or postgraduate study or research to women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Supplemental grants support community-based projects in the fellow's home country. The Long Beach branch established the Anna Stofflet Townsend International Endowment in 1953. The endowment was completed in 1968. Anna was California State Division President from 1950 to 1952 and Association VP, South Pacific Region from 1955 to 1963.

The recipient of the Anna Stofflet Townsend International Endowment for 2008-2009 is Qi Zhou from China. She is obtaining her Ph.D. in Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Qi's project is The Involvement of Chinese Parents in Their Daughters' Education and Development. Qi is particularly interested in advocating for equality in and access to educational opportunities for young girls in her home country of China. She is also interested in bringing school psychology services back to China.

Next month you'll learn about the Long Beach branch's three Research and Projects grant recipients.

GENTLY USED BOOK SALE

Summer will be fast approaching when the May garden party is held. We'll be having a gently used book sale at the event as a fundraiser for EF. What better way to stock up on your summer reading materials? Donations are needed. You can bring your spare books to the March and April branch meetings or call or email me and I'll pick them up.

Patricia Ferrer, Vantage Editor

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2009 WITH A POWERFUL NOISE

Plan to join [CARE](#) and more than 120,000 people in 400 theaters across the United States to celebrate International Women's Day 2009. On March 5, CARE is hosting an unprecedented one-night event featuring the theatrical premiere of [A Powerful Noise](#), an acclaimed documentary that follows three extraordinary women in Vietnam, Bosnia, and Mali. In Long Beach, the film will be shown at the Edwards Long Beach 26, 7501 Carson Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90808 (Long Beach Towne Center) at 8:00 PM. Let me know if you are attending and we can meet for dinner beforehand at one of the restaurants in the center: panderoh@aol.com or 562 597 4781.

PUBLIC POLICY

As Norma Grady reported at the February Branch meeting, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was the first bill signed into law by new President Barack Obama. As satisfying as this was, it simply brought us back to where women stood before the wrong-headed Supreme Court decision. According to new data supplied by Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2007 the ratio of women's and men's median annual earnings reached almost 78 cents on the dollar for full-time year around workers, up from just under 77 cents in 2006. This is the narrowest the wage gap has ever been, but it's only an additional one cent on the dollar. AAUW characterizes this as "chump change" and has come up with a new campaign that tells Congress to "**Keep the Change until Women Have Real Change.**" **The Paycheck Fairness Act** (H.R. 12) has passed the House and moved to the Senate where it will probably be voted on in the spring. Our senators, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer will almost assuredly back this bill; it would still be helpful to let them know that you want their support. You can reach them at:

Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Building
Washington, D.C., 20512
(202) 224-3841

Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Building
Washington, D.C., 20513
(202) 224-3841

Sharon Westafer and Frances Rozner, Math/Science Co-Chairs

MATH AND SCIENCE CONFERENCE CANCELLED

We regret to inform you that we must cancel the Math and Science Career Conference for this year. On Wednesday, February 4, we received the following letter from Jennifer Nolan, Academic Director, LBUSD WRAP After-School Programs:

I am so sorry to have to write this letter. However, we have just finished a budget meeting and due to our partner agency's inability to support the conference this year, we do not have the students or personnel to make the AAUW conference cost effective, especially in these times of severe budget cuts. Therefore, we regret that we will not be able to participate in the conference scheduled for February 28th.

When times are better, we are hopeful that we can once again collaborate.

Thank you, as always, for your consideration and support.

Jennifer Nolan

As most of you know, WRAP was wonderful last year in getting so many girls signed up to attend the conference and actually getting them to the conference. As a goodwill gesture, we have offered to reimburse the speakers for any expenses they may have incurred in preparing for this year's conference. We will save any supplies purchased this year, as well as supplies from previous years, for a future math and science conference. We appreciate all of your support.

Special thanks to our wonderful committee for your hard work and willingness to take on tasks with patience and good humor

NEW MEMBERS SOCIAL

New members are invited to the International Eaters Organization dinner on Thursday, March 19, 6:30 p.m. at Baja Sonora, 2940 Clark Avenue (at Spring) in the strip mall next to the trophy shop. This tried and true excellent Mexican restaurant is inexpensive with the best tacos in town. A few years ago, Sunset Magazine featured this restaurant as having some of the best tacos in the Western United States. Come meet other members (new and "senior") and have a great meal! See page 4 for reservation info.

MARCH BRANCH MEETING INFORMATION AND RSVP FORM

AAUW BRANCH MEETING SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2009

THE GRAND

Pacific Room
4101 E. Willow Street
Long Beach, CA 90815
562 426 0555

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

Menu: House Salad—Italian or Ranch Dressing
Chicken Picatta
Chef's Fresh Steamed Vegetables
Baby Red Roast Potatoes
Rolls and Butter
Apple Pan Dowdy
Coffee or Tea

Vegetarian meal on request

Cost: \$27.00

Questions: Jean Aldrich (562-430-8688), Barbara Cottrell (562-431-2445)

Deadline: February 28, 2009

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

The Grand is West of Lakewood Blvd, on the north side of street. Parking structure in the rear of building.

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, February 28, 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.

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INTEREST GROUPS

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

Book Chat Plus will meet Tuesday, March 3rd at 10:30AM-12:00 Noon at the home of Jean Friedrichs. Come and discuss the latest book you've read or tell about an interesting magazine or newspaper article. Everyone is welcome, tea and cookies will be served. 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 March 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 see article on Page 3.

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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