



AAUW-LONG BEACH VANTAGE

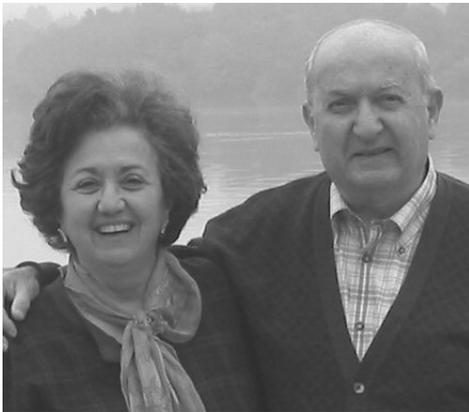
April 2009

Long Beach Branch, Vol. 38 Issue 8

Darci Fersch, Program VP/Helen Sebring and Lamis Hashem, International Relations

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DINNER, APRIL 2, 2009

Merhaba Ya Sourya and Salam Ya Sham



You might have read about Damascus in the Bible and often heard about Syria in the news; our speaker, Lamis Hashem, was born there and grew up in a rather large family. She attended a French Catholic school, went to Damascus University and obtained her BA in French Language and Literature. She received her MA from California State University, Los Angeles and taught there for ten years. Many years ago, Lamis and her husband, Erfan, relocated to Southern California to start their own family. Her favorite time now is the one spent with her son, daughter and grandchildren

Throughout the years, she went often to reunite with friends and visit the family in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. Her last visit was in September of last year. You don't need to pack your bags but Lamis is taking you with her on a trip to visit that part of the world. Be prepared to learn some Arabic words along the journey. Lamis is a member of our branch and the Newport Beach Branch. Lamis and her husband reside in Rossmoor.

Helen Sebring, International Relations

HAVING A CUP OF TEA TO HELP BUILD PEACE

Please mark your calendars! Call in your reservation to Bobbi Burkett! Plan to be at the lovely Assistance League dining room on Thursday evening, April 2, to hear Lamis Hashem speak about growing up in her native Damascus, Syria, and her reflections upon revisiting there often! Come prepared to "Build Bridges of Peace" and to "educate girls and change the world." Plan to write a check to the Central Asia Institute, the non-profit organization of Greg Mortenson, the famous author of "Three Cups of Tea," AAUW member and Nobel peace prize nominee! Give to help build more schools for children of Pakistan and Afghanistan so that they can grow in a peaceful, productive world instead of one torn by apart by bombs. You won't want to miss the evening and the opportunity to donate to this organization. Our group always sends a good-sized contribution to an international non-profit agency. This opportunity comes at a very crucial time in our country's relationships with Asia. We can help. YES WE CAN!

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

I am sure you have all read the lovely tribute to Letitia Corum in the AAUW California Perspective. As you know, we also noted the January passing of this outstanding member. She will always be remembered.

We recently learned that Deloris and Sandy Mayuga graciously hosted a reception at their lovely home to community leaders and guests for the Long Beach Day Nursery's Stepping Stones to Success scholarship campaign. Linda Silver and other of our members attended. It is gratifying that so many of our members reach out to our community.

In March, I attended the reading of Three Cups of Tea at the Dana Branch Library. A lovely morning and tea was served.

Birthday greetings to all April honorees
Don't get fooled on April 1!
Happy Easter to all.

"Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy." Anne Frank

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- 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-- Regular business was conducted at the Executive Board meeting held on Monday, February 16, 2009. The following motions were made:

Motion: Deloris Mayuga moved that Frances Rozner, Pat Ferrer, Sharon Westafer, Fay Denny and Judith Kaho be appointed as delegates to California State and Association conventions. Motion seconded and passed.

Motion: Deloris Mayuga moved that \$1,000 be allocated to incoming presidents for fees associated with state convention and \$2000 be allocated to incoming presidents for fees associated with Association convention for 2009. Motion seconded and passed.

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

BOARD MEETINGS: The Joint (outgoing and incoming boards) May Board meeting (May 17) is still scheduled for St. Luke's, 6:30 PM.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In order to meet one of the Long Beach Branch's goals, strengthening membership, the writer gave a brief speech (copy available) relating our history and accomplishments at the 85th birthday party of the League of Women Voters on February 28. It was perfect venue to engage committed women and increase awareness of the branch's dedication to equity for women. The meeting took place at the Los Altos Library. In attendance were some of our own members (Gerrie Schipske, Flo Pickett, and Mary Ellen Kilsby); local dignitaries such as Laura Doud, Tonia Reyes Uranga, Betty Karnette, Laura Richardson, Bonnie Lowenthal, Laura Matthews and Deborah Andrews from the Long Beach Courthouse. Several of whom have spoken at our meetings. What a wonderful and inspiring morning! Energy and commitment were evident among these and the other women who represented organizations based on promoting equity, education and the promise of elevating girls and women who are not as fortunate as our volunteer community. Branch literature was liberally distributed and contacts were made.

On March 1, Gail Morrison and the writer were delighted to read from Greg Mortensen's inspirational book *Three Cups of Tea* in Belmont Shore during Justin Rudd's annual celebration of Long Beach's One-City, One-Read project. The branch members and the readers were overjoyed to see our project appear on the front page of the *Grunion Gazette*. Due to these two extraordinary events, the branch's exposure in the Long Beach and surrounding community has been increased and should result in increased membership.

TECH TREK REPORT

The Tech Trek Committee: Patricia Ferrer, Gail Morrison and Sharon Westafer join Co-Chairs Anne Supple and Linda Patten in thanking you for your support in our successful fundraising to send five (5) girls to camp this summer. We raised \$2525 this year! The Black/Holmes fund donated \$800. It is a pleasure to commend Frances La Mar, who year after year sponsors one girl. This year she wrote in her note "Here is my contribution to a special cause – my chance to show my appreciation for all the hard work you and your AAUW colleagues perform." The girls, committee and branch are grateful for Frances' kind words and generous donations.

Kee DeBoer, Budget

ETHEL BLACK/IRENE HOLMES FUND

In 1998, the Ethel Black Fund was established with a bequest of \$25,000 and a bequest of \$3,000 by Irene Holmes was later added to the fund. Interest from this fund is used to support projects that support the AAUW Mission Statement. Each spring we ask members for suggestions on how the money should be spent. Some of the projects supported in the past are Tech Trek, Mentor Program, Math/Science Conference and Convention Fund. We need your input now on how this year's interest money should be allocated. You may recommend more than one project. Please call or email me with you suggestions before May 1. This Budget Committee will take the suggestions to the May Board meeting for their consideration and in June, the Branch membership will consider and vote on the recommendations. Kee DeBoer, (562) 430-8389, kdeboer@csulb.edu

MEMBERSHIP GARDEN PARTY

Spring has arrived this year with all of its colorful beauty. With the arrival of Spring, we look forward to our wonderful Branch Garden Party that will be held on May 2, 2009 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Jean Aldrich has graciously offered her home as the site for this year's Garden Party--thank you, Jean! During the Garden Party, displays will illustrate the many programs and activities in which our Branch is engaged. In addition, gently used books will be offered for sale in support of EF. As most of you know, there is no charge to attend the Garden Party, so it's a perfect time to bring friends and family to learn more about our Branch and to introduce them to the possibility of Branch membership. An "opportunity drawing" will be held. Tickets for the drawing will be given to any guest who comes to the Garden Party, as well as to the Branch member who brought the guest. The drawing will occur during the Garden Party. Come and enjoy a relaxed and sociable time with friends, meet new friends and enjoy delicious refreshments. We look forward to seeing all of you there. Happy Spring!

Carla Strandberg, Member

NEED MUSIC?

Let us entertain you! My vocal ensemble, *Women of Note*, has a sparkling and varied program to enliven your public or private event. The *Women of Note* mission is to enrich the cultural life of the community while demonstrating the significance of women in the performing arts. We operate in two seasons, fall and spring, each culminating in a concert that is open to the public free of charge. These concerts are financially supported by the honoraria received from our special client groups. If your organization is in need of a program, contact me at 562 598-5852 or womenofnotelb@gmail.com to arrange a performance. You will not be disappointed because my singers are superb! Carla Strandberg

INTERESTED IN THESE INTEREST GROUPS?

Book Chat Plus will meet on Tuesday, April 7 at 10:00 - 12:00 at the home of Jean Friedrichs .. We discuss our latest reading or a magazine or article of interest. We are a friendly group that welcomes new members. Tea or coffee and cookies are served. Call Jean at 562-598-9218 for more information and instructions on getting to her Rossmoor home.

Residential Rentals Discussions Interest Group next meeting will be Wednesday, April 15th, at 10 am at the home of Joan Gustafson. (Our March meeting is the 18th in case the VANTAGE arrives a little early). We do not have an agenda item yet but will be picking from a list of suggestions discussed at our first meeting. Those attending this discussion group have a total of 193 years involved in residential rentals and in 13 zip codes. This is networking at its best! We welcome anyone with an interest in residential rentals to our meetings. Reservations are not required but an email to Joan at jwg221@aol.com or Ellen Mathis at epmathis@verizon.net will let us plan for you.

Interested in starting your own interest group? Contact Linda Patten, President, at 562 402-6831 or Linda@lpatten.com.

Other AAUW Long Beach sponsored interest groups are listed at the top of page 8 of the Vantage every month.

WONDERFUL NEWS FOR LONG BEACH BRANCH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

CONGRATULATIONS! Congratulations!! Your endowment is complete. Thanks to you and your Branch for their commitment to EF. I'm so happy for your Branch- -Rozanne

This exciting news was received from Rozanne Child, State EF/LAF Chair, in February. Thank you so much to all of you who helped make completion of the Long Beach Research and Projects Grant a reality. Several other branches designated their EF contributions to the Long Beach grant as well, to help with its completion. Beginning in 2009-2010, interest money from the grant will begin funding EF Fellows.

MEET LONG BEACH BRANCH EF FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS-PART 2

Research and Projects Grants include both Career Development Grants, which help women who seek to achieve upward mobility within their present careers or are trying to change careers, and Community Action Grants, which support individual, branch and state projects that further the mission of AAUW by promoting education and equity for women and girls in local communities and schools.

The Long Beach branch has FOUR completed Research and Projects Grants that honor three members and the branch: Joyce E. Clark, completed in 1990, Connie Wright Inskeep, completed in 1995, Ethel Black, completed in 2001, and the Long Beach Branch, Inc. Research and Projects Grant, completed in 2008. The 2008-2009 recipients of the Long Beach Research and Projects Grants are:

Suely Ngouy, recipient of funds from the Joyce E. Clark Grant, resides in El Monte, CA. Suely is the executive director of Khmer Girls in Action, a young women's organization. She holds a bachelor's degree in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology and is pursuing her master's degree in public administration, at CSULB, to strengthen her role in encouraging young women to be agents of social, economic, and political change.

The recipient of funds from the Connie Wright Inskeep Grant is the AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield, Missouri, Branch. The name of the project is Each One, Teach One. This project will allow AAUW mentors to work with small groups of sixth grade students to envision, develop, and complete science fair projects. During the spring semester the students, teachers and mentors will visit a science center to consider different subjects; participate in two workshops to learn how to create a science fair project; and complete a project by conducting research, designing an experiment, and preparing a display board.

Teresa Mendez, who resides in Cambridge, MA, is the recipient of money from the Ethel Black grant. A reporter for six years, Teresa will focus on clinical social work and use her master's degree to make the transition from journalist to therapist. She holds a bachelor's degree in cultural anthropology from Princeton University.

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 April branch meeting or call or email me and I'll pick them up.

CONNIE INSKEEP LEADERSHIP AWARD

Connie Inskeep was an outstanding leader in our Branch who held various offices and was President or co-President of the Branch three times (in the seventies, eighties, and nineties). In addition, she held leadership positions in LACIC as well as the AAUW California Board and Committees. Her energy and love of AAUW was always inspirational and “catching.”

The Leadership Award begun in 1996-1997 and is awarded yearly to a branch member who exhibits qualities of leadership that meet any of the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated leadership in the Branch that is consistent with the mission of AAUW i.e. advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.
2. Demonstrated leadership at the Los Angeles Interbranch Council or LA District level
3. Demonstrated leadership at the AAUW California or Association Level

Any of the criteria listed above solely or in combination is acceptable for a nomination. Please make your nomination and list the areas of leadership that make your nominee qualify for this award. Nomination form is an insert to this Vantage.

The **previous** recipients of this award (in order received) are: JoAnn Kuroda, Joyce Clark, Jean Aldrich, Judith Kaho, Fay Denny, Deloris Mayuga, Daphne Ching-Jackson, Betty Ann Rauch, Joan Gustafson, Barbara Gleason and Ellen Mathis.

Betty Ann Rauch, Public Policy Director

PUBLIC POLICY

As you know, **the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act** passed in Congress and was signed by President Obama. Although this was a much-needed act, it merely returned the law to its original intent before the Supreme Court decided differently. Further legislation is needed to advance true pay equity. To really achieve equitable pay for women, the 45-year old Equal Pay Act needs to be updated. The **Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 12)**, which has passed in the House, is designed to create stronger incentives for employers to follow the law, empower women to negotiate for equal pay, and strengthen federal outreach, education and enforcement efforts. The bill would also deter wage discrimination by strengthening penalties for equal pay violations and by prohibiting retaliation against workers who ask about employers' wage practices or disclose their own wages. The **Paycheck Fairness Act** is to be brought up in the Senate sometime during the month of April. Please contact our senators and urge them to vote for the act. I believe both Senators Feinstein and Boxer support its passage but input from their constituents strengthens their vote.

In addition to other recommendations for reforming the **No Child Left Behind Act**, AAUW supports the inclusion of science as a required area of assessment under the Act's measurement of adequate yearly progress. AAUW believes that this change will provide valuable data about student achievement in this critical area. This will help identify opportunities to improve student achievement in science is measured in a way that allows the data to be disaggregated and analyzed by sex.

There will be a Public Policy Meeting at my home, 13040 Del Monte Dr. 45C, Seal Beach on Wednesday, April 15 at 1:30 pm. If the new AAUW-CA legislative package for 2009 has been published by that date, we will discuss it. Otherwise, there are many issues at both the state and national levels worthy of discussion. Please plan to attend. Call me if you need directions. Betty Ann

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

AAUW-California will be holding its 88th Annual Convention at the Hilton Mission Valley Hotel, San Diego, April 24 to 26, 2009. Registration is now open and can be done on-line at www.aauw-ca.org or use the form in your California Perspective that you just received.

Breaking Through Barriers, AAUW National Convention is being held June 26 to 28, 2009, at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites, St. Louis, Missouri. Registration is now open—the earlier you book, the more you save! Check it out at www.aauw.org/convention/conv2009.

MARCH BRANCH MEETING INFORMATION AND RSVP FORM

AAUW BRANCH MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF LONG BEACH

Philanthropic Center
6220 E. Spring Street
Long Beach, CA 90815
562-627-5650

Social: 5:30-6:00pm
Dinner: 6:00-7:00pm
Program: 7:00-8:00pm
Business Meeting: 8:00-9:00pm

Menu:

Blend of Baby Field Greens with Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing
Lemon Herb Chicken with Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Oven Roasted Vegetable Medley
Bread Basket Array with Butter Balls
Assortment of Brownies, Lemon-Blueberry Bites and Chocolate Sinsation Bar
Coffee and Tea

Vegetarian meal on request

Cost: \$36.00

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

Deadline: MARCH 26, 2009

Those making a lunch 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 Bobbi Burket, PO Box 90502, Long Beach, CA 90809. (562) 599 3927

Deadline for Reservations, MARCH 26, 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, will meet April 15, 2009, 1:30 PM at the home of Betty Ann Rauch. RSVP 562 431-6679.

Book Chat Plus will meet Tuesday, April 7 at 10:30AM-12:00 Noon at the home of Jean Friedrichs. 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 April book selection is "Almost French" 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 contact Barbara Gleason at 562 421-2206

Residential Real Estate will meet on Wednesday, April 15th, at 10 am at the home of Joan Gustafson. See page 4 for more info.

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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