



AAUW-LONG BEACH VANTAGE

May 2009

Long Beach Branch, Vol. 38 Issue 9

Darci Fersch, Program VP/Carol Smith and Fay Denny, Co-Membership VPs

A GARDEN PARTY

Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM

All members are cordially invited to attend our annual Membership Garden Party to be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the home of Jean Aldrich. We hope that each one of you will bring a prospective member with you to introduce her (or him) to AAUW and our wonderful organization. Light refreshments will be served. One lucky new member will be chosen to receive a free membership for 2009 - 2010. In addition, prospective members who elect to join at our party will receive a discount of \$24.50 and will pay \$66.50 instead of \$91 for the 2009 - 2010 year.

Jean's home is at 7970 Ring St, El Dorado Park Estates, Long Beach, California.

Helen Sebring, International Relations

AAUW LONG BEACH BRANCH REACHES OUT TO SYRIA AND BEYOND

At the International Relations Branch meeting, fifty-two attendees learned some of the history of Syria and its capital, Damascus, its customs, foods, homes and values. Our speaker and branch member, Lamis Hashem, brought family members and three friends to our dinner, so that each table could continue to converse about Syria and the Middle East. Lamis also brought delicious appetizers and homemade Syrian-style baklava, lovely artifacts, books and slides so that we could get more of an appreciation of Syria.

Then many of the members and guests opened their checkbooks to donate to the Central Asia Institute (CAI) established by Greg Mortenson, author of "Three Cups of Tea," to build schools in the mountainous areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Our branch will be sending at least \$900.00 to support education there, especially for girls and young women. Greg Mortenson would certainly thank all the donors. You can still help CAI build schools too if you wish. Send a check ASAP to Helen Sebring and she will include it with the others.

A huge "Thank you" to Lamis Hashem and to our members who continue each year to learn more about the world beyond our shores.

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 greatly saddened to hear of the passing of Mary Anagnostis on March 20, 2009. She was a long time member and we in Gourmet personally knew and enjoyed this lovely lady. She will be greatly missed. No services were held. A condolence card was sent to the family.

Sadly I read of the passing of Dorothy K. Madison, a former member of AAUW, on March 25, 2009. 1994 was our listing of her membership and I am sure many of our members knew her. Services were held April 1, 2009.

Birthday greetings to all May honorees.
Happy Mother's Day too!

MEMORIAL DAY

"I thought about you with love today but that is nothing new. I thought about you yesterday and days before that too. I think of you in silence. I often speak your name. All I have is memories and your picture in a frame.

Your memory is my keepsake with which I will never part.

God has you in his keeping. I have you in my heart."

— Author unknown

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- 5/2 Afternoon Membership Garden Party
Location: Home of Jean Aldrich
6/6 Lunch, Old Ranch Country Club
Installation of New Officers

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues of \$91 will be billed by the end of April and must be returned to Norma Grady, 3591 Claremore, Long Beach, 90808 before June 19, 2009. The good news this year is that \$46 will be tax-deductible as Association is now a 501(c)3 organization.

JOANN KURODA ANNOUNCES

The birth of her new granddaughter, born March 26. Her name is Gabriela Hisaye Kuroda.

LACIC ACTIVITIES

May 30—Leadership Day
Aug 29—President and Friends
See article on page 4 more info on page

Board Brief--The Board of Directors of AAUW, Long Beach Branch, met on March 16, 2009 at the Iacoboni Library, Lakewood, at 6:00 p.m. President Linda Patten called the meeting to order. The following motions were made:

- It was moved by Fay Denny and seconded by Norma Grady that the Finance Committee review the status of the two Building Fund CDs and make a recommendation as to the reduction of principal in either CD. Motion passed.
- It was moved by Frances Rozner and seconded by Anne Supple that the excess money from the sale of the Great Decisions books be applied to Tech Trek. Motion passed.

Helen Sebring, Secretary

BOARD MEETINGS: The last Executive Board meeting was held in April. The May Joint (outgoing and incoming boards) will be held May 17 **at Iacoboni Library in Lakewood (4990 Clark Ave) starting at 6:15 PM**

AAUW-LONG BEACH WEBSITE: <http://www.aauw-longbeach.org>

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking back over the 2008-2009 year, it is evident that the branch has achieved the goals that were defined last year. First, at least eight new members have been welcomed to the branch, showcasing a heroic effort by the membership committee and branch members who recommended their friends and acquaintances. Second – in order to maintain branch alignment with AAUW's mission, we had interesting and pertinent programs, participated in community activities, continued tutoring, mentoring, voting, donating, and promoting the idea that education is vital and **equity is still an issue**. Last, the board members should be especially proud of effectively managing resources by using technology to e-mail the meeting minutes, treasurers' reports, as well as the *Vantage* issues, thereby conserving dollars and paper. Changes in the yearbook saved over one hundred dollars in printing costs! These efficiencies have insured there was no need for a dues increase. The newly formed Building Fund Committee is investigating alternate housing to avoid drawing additional funds from the Building Fund Certificates of Deposit. Amazingly, this has been accomplished with two months remaining in our year. Congratulations to a diligent and effective board of directors!

Important note: the venue for the May joint board meeting has been changed to the Iacoboni Library, 4940 Clark Ave (across the street from the Home Depot in Lakewood Center) in Lakewood. The meeting will begin at 6:15 p.m., with networking at 6:00 p.m. If requested, directions will be provided.

Kee DeBoer, Budget

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ETHEL BLACK/IRENE HOLMES FUND

There is still time to get your suggestions to the Budget Committee for allocating the interest earned this year on the Ethel Black/Irene Holmes Fund. We need your ideas by May 1st. In the past, we have allocated money to Tech Trek, convention fund and special projects. All ideas will be considered by the Board at their May meeting, and their recommendations will then go to the Branch membership for consideration and a vote at the June meeting. Please call or e-mail me.

Kee DeBoer, Budget Chair
kdeboer@csulb.edu
(562) 430-8389

INTERNATIONAL EATERS ORGANIZATION

Mark your calendars for the next eating adventure with the IEO. Our destination in May will be the Pei-Wei, a self-described "Asian diner" located at 12235 Seal Beach Boulevard in the Rossmoor Center in Los Alamitos (directly behind Mel's Diner). The date is Tuesday, May 19th, and the time is 6:00 PM. Their publicity characterizes Pei-Wei as a "faster, more casual take of our parent company P. F. Chang's China Bistro." It is also cheaper, with most entrees costing less than ten dollars. You can check the menu at www.pei-wei.com. The food is good, and if you are interested in shopping afterwards, you will be close to Sprouts, Chico's, and Coldwater Creek.

For reservations, please call or e-mail Kee DeBoer (562-430-8389 or kdeboer@csulb.edu) by Friday May 15th.

AAUW CA'S LACIC WELCOMES YOU

Please plan to attend Los Angeles County Interbranch Council's (LACIC's) leadership day on Saturday, May 30. We've engaged a wonderful venue—Ramona Convent Secondary School in Alhambra. The school's president, Sr. Kathleen Callaway, is as eager to have us, as we are to use the beautiful facility. For those of you who aren't looking for job training, please come for the discussion of the proposed Association bylaws, the stimulating Open Space session (where attendees determine the topics), and lunch. Cost is \$25/person. Registration form is on page 7.

LACIC branches will muster at an informal wine and cheese reception on Saturday, April 25, 5-6 p.m., in my room at the Hilton San Diego Mission Valley. I won't have a room number until I check in, so watch for the announcement in the convention *Snapshots*. Cost? FREE!

In addition, please save the date—the morning of Saturday, August 29—for LACIC's 2009 Presidents & Friends meeting at Carson Community Center. Following a talk by Kathy Christie Hernandez on "Online Social Networking is Changing How People Learn, Organize, and Interact," we'll hear what's new in AAUW CA and we'll have an opportunity to do some face-to-face networking. The cost is \$14/person.

If you want more information about any of these pending activities, visit the LACIC Web site, <http://sites.google.com/site/aauwlacic>, or contact me at mariondsmith@gmail.com or 310.832.3000.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS DISCUSSIONS INTEREST GROUP

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 20th, at 10 am at the home of Joan Gustafson. (Our April meeting is the 15th 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 at the April meeting. April's topic is "advertising for rentals." We welcome anyone with an interest in residential rentals to our meetings. Reservations are not required but an email to Joan at jwq221@aol.com or Ellen Mathis at epmathis@verizon.net will let us plan for you.

FOCUS ON NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome three new members to our branch: Linda Wheeler, Carolyn Chambers, and Sandra Kroll. Both Carolyn and Sandra were encouraged to join by Flo Pickett. Way to go Flo!

All new/newer members are especially invited to join us on May 2nd at the Membership Garden Party at the El Dorado Park Estates home of Jean Aldrich. The Garden Party is informal, free, and a great chance to get acquainted or re-acquainted with old and new friends. It's a good way to find out what we are all about and to enjoy excellent refreshments in a lovely setting. We will be having our "gently used" book sale to benefit EF. Please join us if you are able. Call if you would like to ride share and it will be arranged. Any questions? Call Flo Pickett 562 421-5348 or flopickett@charter.net

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION NEWS

It was reported at the March branch meeting that the Long Beach Research and Projects grant was completed in 2008. Since then, the total amount of the grant has been recorded and it is \$97,555.00! This was made possible by donations of money, time, books, and silent auction items by Long Beach branch members as well as by contributions to the grant from other branches, most notably the Redding branch, which over the last three years contributed \$26,807, and the Stockton branch, which over the last two years contributed \$6,104.

The principal from branch endowments is never used, only the interest generated from the principal, so most Grants and Fellowships awarded are composed of interest money from multiple endowments. The awards for various grants are as follows: American Fellowships \$6,000 to \$30,000, Career Development Grants \$2,000 to \$12,000, Selected Professions \$5,000 to \$12,000, Community Action Grants-one year \$2,000 to \$7,000-two year-\$5,000 to \$10,000 and International Fellowships \$20,000 to \$30,000. The amount awarded depends on the project and time needed for completion.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award is a biennial award that honors an individual, project, organization, or institution for a broad range of activities including classroom teaching, education and research, and legal and legislative work to promote equity for women and girls. Work should support the goals of the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund: to remove barriers to women's and girl's participation in education; to promote the value of diversity and cross-cultural communication; and to develop greater understanding of the ways women learn, think, work, and play. The award includes an honorarium of \$5,000.

At the May garden party, you'll have a chance to support EF by shopping at the gently used book sale. It's the perfect opportunity to stock up on your summer reading materials at reasonable prices. Sharon Westafer would be happy to pick up your donations of books prior to the sale.

Anne Supple, Community Connections

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community Connections is a small but mighty group that grew out of the 2007-08 New Members cohort. The group has continued this year to focus on projects that address the needs of the Bethune Transitional Center, the Long Beach Unified School District's center for homeless students. In the fall, we collected loads of school supplies, thanks to the generous donations of so many of you! These supplies were delivered to the very grateful Director of the Center, Rhonda Haramis. In January, we answered Rhonda's needs request by donating 56 Long Beach Transit Day Passes which were desperately needed at the Center to provide transportation for the homeless students to and from their schools. Along with the bus passes, we also delivered 13 warm hats lovingly knitted and generously donated by Kee DeBoer. Many thanks to Kee!

The most recent need at Bethune is for lice shampoo and combs. Community Connection members are currently purchasing these items and planning to make a delivery to the Center this month.

In addition to the Bethune projects, the Community Connections members assist with the pick-up and delivery of donations for the Women's Shelter.

Our dinner meetings are held at the Marie Callendar's in Rossmoor, usually on the fourth Monday of the month. Any members who are interested in joining us are most welcome!

CONNIE INSKEEP LEADERSHIP AWARD

Nominations are being accepted until May 15, 2009, for the 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 began 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 was an insert in the April Vantage. If you no longer have the form, you can email or “snail mail” me with your nominee. Please include your nominee’s name and how she/he meets the criteria listed in the paragraph above.

The **previous** recipients of this award (in order received) are the following: 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

On March 17, Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Barbara Lee (D-CA) introduced the Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act (H.R. 1551/S.611) to authorize federal funds for states to offer comprehensive, age appropriate, and medically accurate sexual education in their schools. The only federal funding currently available to states is for abstinence-only-until marriage education. The proposed law would allow states to offer information about the health benefits of contraception to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The new act would allow states to still promote abstinence but would also provide for a more comprehensive approach to sex education.

Public Policy Meeting on **Wednesday April 22**, 1:30 PM at Betty Ann's home, 13040 Del Monte Dr. 45C, Seal Beach CA. We will discuss the pros, cons, and consequences of the California ballot measures we will vote on in May. We will try to come up with a report of our conclusions to be available at the Public Policy table at the May membership garden party.

Public Policy Meeting on **Wednesday May 20**, 1:30 PM at Betty Ann's home, 13040 Del Monte Dr, 45C, Seal Beach, CA. We will review the AAUW-CA bill package recommendations.

WELCOME TO AAUW CA LEADERSHIP DAY
May 30, 2009, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
\$25/person

At the beautiful **Ramona Convent Secondary School, Holy Family Room**, 1701 W. Ramona Road, Alhambra, California 91803. Find driving directions at the school's Web site, <http://www.ramona.pvt.k12.ca.us/>). Tip: *Stay by the freeway wall.* Entrance to the campus is across the street from the freeway wall.

- 9:30–10 a.m., registration/coffee/networking
- 10–10:15 a.m., welcome
- 10:15–11:15 a.m., Healthy Branches, a leadership roadmap by Phyllis Howard, Arcadia Branch
- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., breakout session A [choose one]
- 12:30-1:30 p.m., sandwich/salad lunch and installation of the 2009-2010 LACIC Board
- 1:30-2:30 p.m., breakout session B [choose one]

For planning purposes, please ✓ your preferences (knowing the schedule may have to be modified).
 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., breakout session A [choose one]

___ A1 President/President-Elect	___ A3 Secretary/Bylaws	___ A5 Proposed Association bylaws
___ A2 EF/LAF VP	___ A4 Program VP	

1:30-2:30 p.m., breakout session B [choose one]

___ B1 Membership	___ B3 Communications	___ B5 Open Space Technology (see http://www.openspaceworld.org/)
___ B2 Public Policy	___ B4 Finance VP	

Sessions for which fewer than five people register may be cancelled. **Reservations must be received by Saturday, May 23.**

Yes. I will attend!

Name _____ Branch _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

Amount enclosed: _____ Requesting vegetarian lunch: _____

Make checks payable to **AAUW California**. Mail to: Marion Smith, 2205 W. 25th Street, #2, San Pedro, CA 90732. **Deadline: May 23. Questions?** Call Marion at (310) 832-3000 or e-mail mariondsmith@gmail.com.

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INTEREST GROUPS

Public Policy, will meet April 22, 2009, and May 20, 2009, 1:30 PM at the home of Betty Ann Rauch. RSVP 562 431-6679.

Book Chat Plus call Jean Friedrichs 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 May book selection is "The Camel Bookmobile." 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 April 15, 2009, and May 20, 2009, 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.

AAUW Long Beach Branch
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