



Prickly Pear Postings

SE Valley Branch,
AAUW

Volume 21, No. 1
September, 2009

AAUW ADVANCES EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH

Co-President's Message

submitted by Diane Larson

Hello Members,

I'm excited for our 2009-2010 year. We have many challenges and goals to attain this year. I attended our National Convention in St. Louis. What a dynamic group of women! Some of our speakers were Rep. Rosa De Lauro, CT; Rep. Jackie Spier, CA; Linda Hallman, our AAUW National Director; and Lisa Maatz, our lobbyist. I did not realize what a force AAUW is in our government.

Lilly Ledbetter was our keynote speaker. Her refusal to pipe down became the inspiration behind the Fair Pay Act which became law on January 29, 2009. Did you know that our Linda Hallman and Lisa Maatz were seated in the front row when the president signed the bill? Lilly even danced with the president! Contrary to how some people perceive her, she is a very low-key, soft-spoken woman.

Yes, we won the membership battle! AAUW membership will continue to require at least an Associates Degree. AAUW'S goal for GENDER EQUALITY should also be a personal goal. AAUW is now lobbying for passage of the Fair Paycheck Act. We have two legislators who have NOT backed this act yet, so please call them. Call McCain at 202-224-2235 and Kyl at 202-224-4521. Fair Paycheck Acts have been introduced for 12 years and one still hasn't passed. As a member said, you join AAUW for the social aspect but you stay because of its mission.

Our first meeting is Monday, October 19, at 6:45 p.m. It's in Ballroom C in the Oakwood Clubhouse. **If you had a birthday between August 1 and September 30, please bring a wrapped gift. Keep the price of your gift under \$10.00.** We are going to have some fun and raise a little money at the same time! (Snowbirds, what about a gift made in your home state?)

A committee has been formed and is in the process of setting up a scholarship for a female student right here in Chandler. (Also, read Toni Corrigan's article about our TWO Community Projects.) We will have two special events this year. One will be a luncheon with the Mesa Branch and the other will be with Scottsdale when they have Lilly Ledbetter as their guest. I can hardly wait!

We have to continually strive to educate ourselves about all the modern technologies. AAUW'S National Website will be a "virtual" town. You move your avatar to the hot-spots!? Your avatar is your cursor or little person, in this case. Your "hotspot" is a teal circle. Click on that circle in any building in the AAUW Town, and it will pull up info about our organization. AAUW is blogging and twittering too.

Will we choose to move forward, or despite good intentions, move backward? As Lisa said, "AAUW is the big teal machine, get mouthy ladies!!" See you in October.

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AAUW Events

Sept. 8	Evening Books
Sept. 23	Lunch Bunch
Oct. 12	Afternoon Books
Oct. 13	Evening Books
Oct. 14	Board Meeting
Oct. 19	General Meeting
Oct. 21	PPP Deadline
Oct. 22	Southwesters
Oct. 28	Great Decisions
Nov. 7	Fall Forum
Dec. 6	Holiday Luncheon

EMPOWERING WOMEN PROMOTES PEACE!

***PUBLIC POLICY Submitted by Cynthia Cantor******THE HEALTH CARE DEBATE***

As of mid-August it is impossible to open the newspaper or turn on the television without hearing someone's opinion on health care reform. Any reform legislation, or maintenance of the status quo, will have an impact on the overall economy and on many of us individually. What are the big picture issues that are driving the attempt to reform the system? Some of the key items include:

- Health care costs are rising faster than incomes and are forecast to continue that trend.
- Millions of Americans do not have access to care. Statistics from various sources estimates that in 2007 17% of the non-elderly population were uninsured.
- Health care costs are a key stumbling block in any attempt to reduce the Federal deficit. According to the Kaiser Foundation health care costs as a percent of GDP were: 7.2% in 1970; 12.3% in 1990 and 16.2% in 2007. Without major reforms this upward trend will continue.
- The Medicare trust fund will run out of money in 8 to 10 years.

The President's key goals are to:

- Reduce the long term growth of health care costs for business and government
- Guarantee choice of doctors and health plans
- Provide affordable, accessible care for all
- Require insurance companies to cover individuals with pre-existing conditions
- Prevent insurance companies from dropping coverage when a person gets sick
- Eliminate waste by reducing administrative costs and unnecessary procedures
- Invest in prevention and wellness programs
- Ensure reform legislation is deficit neutral



AAUW's position paper on health care states:

- Health care is a basic right. "Everyone is entitled to care that is high-quality, affordable and accessible".
- "Health care security is intrinsically tied to economic security". Women are less able to afford insurance or care because of greater needs for services and long-term wage disparities.

AAUW has advocated three specific priorities for any legislation:

- End to the practice of "gender rating" by which insurance companies charge women different rates for the same coverage
- Coverage for women's reproductive health services
- Access and coverage for preventive services and care.

As of mid-August there are many different bills being drafted in the Senate and House of Representatives. As the debate has heated up the breadth and depth of misinformation has expanded exponentially. Several myths are discussed below.

MYTH: Health care reform will mean that the elderly will be denied care and/or there will be legalized physician-assisted suicide.

FACT: House bill 3200, Sec 1233 provides for an "Advance Care Planning Consultation". The intent of this section was to reimburse doctors for providing end-of life choices and planning resources to Medicare recipients.



**IN MEMORY
PAULINE HANSON**

PAST PRESIDENT 1999–2001

**PASSED THIS SUMMER FOLLOWING A
COURAGEOUS BATTLE WITH CANCER.**

She will be missed.

Educational Foundation / Scholarships

EF supports National and International Fellowships for females seeking higher education and research. LAF supports legal issues for females in cases such as sex discrimination and women’s rights.

Our branch activities this year to support these two funds will be the Red Envelope Program coming to you by letter in November.

The traditional Holiday Luncheon will be at Palo Verde Country Club on Saturday, December 6th - please mark your calendars.



Our spring fund-raiser this year will not be for EF. We are excited to be starting a Scholarship Program for high school girls - more to follow from that committee.

Helen Semple, EF Chair

Lunch Bunch

Our first lunch will be at Bernard's Restaurant at Ocotillo. We will meet on Wednesday, September 23rd. Pris will be out of town until mid-September. Call Sue Garetson and reserve a lunch spot, 802-0849 or gary-sue1@q.com.

Pris Corbus, Chair



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General Meeting

**Monday, October 19 – 7:00 P.M.
Kingston Ballroom, Oakwood C.C.
Della Salvatierra, P.C.**

The Law Office of Delia Salvatierra, P.C.
Immigration and Nationality Practice
Member: American Immigration Lawyer’s Association



Ms. Salvatierra was born and raised in San Francisco, California. She received her bachelor’s degree in humanities from the University of California Berkeley. After graduating from UC Berkeley, Ms. Salvatierra worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Indian Programs Office in San Francisco. Ms. Salvatierra pursued her graduate work at U.C. Los Angeles. Immediately after U.C.L.A., Ms. Salvatierra moved to Arizona to attend law school at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law. She is a member in good standing with the Arizona State Bar.

Since 2004, Ms. Salvatierra worked for the Burns Law Office, doing immigration law. On July 1, 2009 she opened her own immigration law firm located in downtown Mesa. Ms. Salvatierra practices in all areas of immigration law; however, her focus is representing foreign nationals facing deportation, federal appellate matters, immigrant and non-immigrant visas, as well as consular processing. Finally, Ms. Salvatierra is a member in good standing with the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Ms. Salvatierra has been married to Edgar for 8 years and they have one son, Lucas, who is 7 months old.

Her presentation to AAUW will cover current situations in immigration law.

She spoke at NAILS and was well received, provoking interesting discussions.

Sheila Petriello, Chair



Great Decisions

Great Decisions, a global affairs educational program, promotes awareness and discussion about timely foreign policy issues. Developed by the Foreign Policy Association in 1954, it is designed to encourage debate and discussion of important global issues of our time. Meetings are held on the last Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m.

Topics for discussion:

October- Energy and the Global Economy. Corrine and Ernie Merritt will host and lead the discussion on October 28th at 3:00 PM.

November- Cuba on the Verge. Carmen Otero will host and lead the discussion on November 18th at 3:00 PM. (Date change because of Thanksgiving)

December - No meeting

If you are interested in learning more about the program or becoming a part of the interest group, please contact Betty Raveret at betnbob252@yahoo.com or 883-9592. If you plan to attend either of the fall sessions, please contact the hostess prior to the meeting.

Betty Raveret and Kathy Gough, Co- Chairs

PPS to April PPP article thanking those who helped with the spring benefit. Additional helpers with food preparation were Sue Garretsen, Lynn Weith and Sharon Feltes. Also a very special thank you to Diane Meyer who helped with the kitchen brigade and supplied the artistic floral touches to the hors d'oeuvre trays.

Betty Raveret

Afternoon Books Club

October 12, 2:00 PM

Join us for a season of lively book discussions. We meet in each others' homes between October and April, second Mondays at 2:00 PM. This year we'll explore a couple's heroic flight from slavery, and the emotional code of female friendship. We'll learn about a book club formed in self-defense, ponder the debate of faith vs. atheism, join a couple who risk their lives hiding people in animal houses, and fall under the spell of a tale within a tale. Pick up a copy of *I've Got a Home in Glory Land* by Karolyn Smardz Frost for the October 12 meeting.

Chris Draheim, Chair

Evening Book Club

September 8, 7 P.M.

The evening book club will discuss *Paths of Glory* by Jeffrey Archer. Dorothy Cuomo will lead us in the discussion at the home of Judy Manley at 26429 S. Beech Creek Dr. in Cottonwood.

Directions: Enter Cottonwood at Riggs Road and Robson Dr., proceed to the stop sign and turn left on Howard Dr., continue to Watford Way and turn right, take the first left onto Beech Creek. Judy's house is on the left in the middle of the block.

Please remember to RSVP to Judy at 883-0944 or manley@wbhsi.net.

Barbara Warner, Chair

Please Note: There has been a change to the October book. *The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Society* will replace *The Hemingses of Monticello*.

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Board Meeting

October 14, 2009—7:00 PM
 Bradford Room Oakwood C.C.

RSVP regrets only to
 Diane Larson
ddlars@gmail.com 895-2083

Donna Haugland
dhauglandaauw@gmail.com 802-3737



Southwesters

Southwesters is a special interest group of AAUW which makes monthly visits to local historical and cultural sites. It is a great way to learn about our area since many of us are new to Arizona. It is also a great way to interact casually with a group of interesting women and to make new friends. We're planning a varied schedule for the year ahead. We will be featuring visits to hotels and theaters with fascinating beginnings, a museum that brings to life the history of the desert foothills and pioneer living, and a tour highlighting Chinese gardens, architecture, and food to learn more about the culture. Everyone is welcome, and we hope to see you at any or all of our trips.

We do provide transportation to our events. For those who want to ride with other members you will be asked to reimburse the driver \$3.00 a piece and \$5.00 for longer trips. If gasoline prices jump as they did last year, we may have to increase your contribution.

Our first visit this year will be on Thursday, October 22, to Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort to find out how the Pima and Maricopa cultures influenced the resort's design and décor followed by lunch at their Whirlwind Golf Club.

- TRIP: Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort
- DATE: Thursday, October 22
- COST: None
- TIME: Meet at 9:15 a.m. so we can leave by 9:30
- GATHERING PLACE: Education Center (Riggs and Alma School Road)
- RSVP to Cheryl: 480-895-5770

We are looking forward to seeing all of you very soon to catch up on everyone's summer news and to renew our AAUW friendships.

Cheryl Pullan and June Wagner, Co-Chairs

Public Policy, cont'd from page 2

MYTH: A "Public Option" will drive private insurance companies out of business.

FACT: The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has stated that a public option would not drive private insurance companies out of business. Most people will continue to get health care coverage from their employer. The "Public Option" is intended for people without employer coverage.

MYTH: The reform proposals will result in rationing of care.

FACT: Insurance companies ration care now, they determine what procedures they will cover and at what cost. In addition pre-existing conditions are frequently excluded, as are many drugs.

MYTH: The United States has the best health care system in the world.

FACT: The US spends approximately 16.2 percent of GDP on health care, double what other developed countries spend. By many measures we are not healthier. Among developed countries the US does not rank well in categories including life expectancy and infant mortality. In addition most developed countries provide health care to ALL of their citizens.

As we all look at this issue over the next few months it will be important to keep the big picture in mind and to discern facts from rhetoric. Information sources include:

- AARP: www.AARP.org
- The Kaiser Family Foundations: www.kff.org
- The White House: www.healthreform.gov



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Meet our Advertiser

Sue Doyl

Owner of Curves

An Exercise Club for Women



Sue spent her early life in Arizona, Mesa and Flagstaff, where her father worked for AJ's. Sue married after high school and with her husband worked in the retail grocery industry in TriCities, Washington. They subsequently started their own business in Montana as independent grocers. Three days following a visit to their only daughter, Sandi, he died of a heart attack at the age of 52. Sue completed the build of their new house in Flathead Lake, MT, sold it and moved to Arizona where Sandi lived. She always knew she would someday return to the state she always loved.

In Montana, Sue worked for Curves. On her arrival in Arizona in 2001, she worked for Curves in two locations before buying a franchise of her own in 2002. The Curves footprint has several requirements and Sue's criteria went beyond theirs. She wanted a larger space, a view of the sunset and a friendly clientele. This was all accomplished in her current location in Sun Lakes. Sue lives, works and plays in Sun Lakes where she met and married her husband of two years, Bill Greer.

The Curves exercise premise is a 30-minute circuit of machines which require no adjustments. One moves easily from one machine to the next. Sue has many success stories and has clients with an assortment of conditions: Parkinson's, fibromyalgia, obesity, arthritis etc. Sue is generous with her time and support for the community. Besides her advertisement in the PPP, she sponsors a toy drive for a needy local school during the holidays and contributes to the community breast cancer drive.

Guess what! I joined Curves. Curves also supports the Silver Sneaker program. I'm looking forward to another new beginning.

Submitted by Sue Garretson

Community Action

Our volunteer program at San Marcos school has been a success for our AAUW branch and for the school. We support children and teachers at San Marcos Elementary School by volunteering in classrooms and the library and by donating books, much needed supplies and uniforms. A sign-up sheet will be available at the October meeting. You may sign up for an hour or more on a day and time that fits your schedule. San Marcos Elementary School is located on Frye Road between Alma School and Arizona Avenue. Volunteering at San Marcos is a very rewarding experience. Just listening to a child read is a gift.

The Community Action Committee coordinates other programs that support women and promote education. Each month we will feature one of our programs and give you an opportunity to participate.

Toni Corrigan and Pat Noack, Co-Chairs

Website Information

Please remember to funnel all questions regarding the website through the co-presidents and/or the co-editors rather than contacting the webmaster directly. We will do our best to solve your problem.

The webmaster will send occasional emails from the co-presidents that remind us of upcoming events and deadlines. If you need to reply to these emails, do so by starting with a new email message screen. **Do not hit the reply button and send your message.** If you do that, the message goes to the webmaster, not the person(s) who should receive the message. Please do not contact the web master directly.

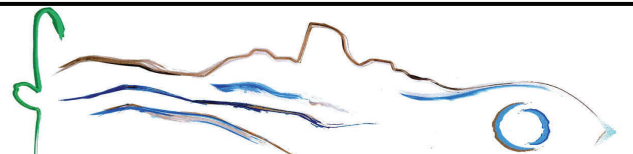
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Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

480-895-8900



Membership Report

We look forward to seeing everyone back after a great summer vacation. We have three new people who have joined the Southeast Valley Branch over the summer. Their names and contact information are:

Selma Halleck
 24240 S. Lakeway Circle NW
 Sun Lakes, AZ 85248
 480-963-7583
Shalleck3@wbhsi.net

Ellen Peck
 835 W. Geronimo Street
 Chandler, AZ 85225
 480-588-7116
peck.ellen@gmail.com

Karen K. Shaffer
 26613 S. Hollygreen Dr.
 Sun Lakes, AZ 85248
 480-305-0579
shafferkk@att.net

A few of you have still not paid your dues for the 2009-2010 year. You can send them to either one of us at the following addresses:

Susan Meer
 9043 E. Cedar Waxwing Dr.
 Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

Mary Lou Remley
 9031 E. Cedar Waxwing Dr
 Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

Of course we are always happy to hear from any of your friends or acquaintances who would like to join AAUW. For your convenience and the convenience of any new members, we have attached a SEVB Membership Renewal Form for 2009-2010. There will be new member tea held in the first part of November to welcome all members who have joined since November 2008.

Afternoon Bridge, Stitches and Giggles and New Member Group will resume later.

**AAUW
 SOUTHEAST VALLEY BRANCH
 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM
 2009-2010**

*(Please print legibly and put an * by any information that is new or needs to be corrected. This information is used to develop the directory.)*

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

COLLEGE/

UNIVERSITY: _____

DEGREE(S) _____

If you live in Sun Lakes, Circle the area in which you reside:

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| Sun Lakes I | Palo Verde | Cottonwood |
| Ironwood | Oakwood | The Renaissance |

DUES FOR 2009 – 2010 ARE \$70.00

(Association \$ 49.00, State \$9.00, and Branch \$12.00)
 \$46 of the \$49 Association dues are tax deductible. That portion is considered a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. You should still pay the entire dues (\$70.00) in one check, made payable to AAUW.

Dues may be mailed with this form to Susan or Mary Lou listed in prior column or brought to the General Meeting.

Prickly Pear Postings Deadline
 October 21, 2009
 Email submissions to
 Judy Manley (manley@wbhsi.net) and
 Sue Garretson (garysue1@q.com)



Southeast Valley Branch



The American Association of University Women 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.

We're on the Web—
sevbaz.org

AAUW National Website
www.aauw.org

Arizona State Website
www.aauwarizona.org

Judy Manley & Sue Garretson, co-editors
26429 South Beech Creek Drive
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

