

# Prickly Pear Postings

SE Valley Branch,  
AAUW

Volume 23, No. 2  
October 2011

## Co-Presidents Message submitted by Carmen Otero

Dear Members

I welcome all our AAUW member to the 2011-2012 season.

I had a remarkable experience this summer. While vacationing in Oregon this summer, I met a young college woman who was on a Portland street passing out leaflets about women in the workplace and the importance of equal pay for equal work. I told her how proud I was that our younger generation was carrying the torch for those who came before her and told her about AAUW. She had never heard about AAUW and she was genuinely excited and wrote down the information I gave her which she wished to pass on to her college friends.

What I didn't mention to her is the value my AAUW membership has made and that is the friendships that we have made through this unique organization. I marvel at the talents and the efforts you have made to have AAUW become such an important part of our lives. I think of the art work, your ideas and talents, and the hours you have devoted to AAUW and I thank you.

Membership does matter and I believe our branch will continue to be a success story because of each and every one of you. I have received a request from our State AAUW organization asking for ideas and for information, updates and tips that have made our organization relevant and exciting. They have requested to have a one-to-one communication with Natalie and me about our activities.

Should you have anything you think I should share with other AAUW branches, please e-mail me and of course, continue with your attendance and share your ideas to make this not only an education experience but also an organization that will continue to have value in our lives.

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### AAUW Events

Oct. 3	Bridge
Oct. 4	AAUW Singles Group
Oct. 6	New Members
Oct. 10	Afternoon Books
Oct. 11	Evening Books
Oct. 12	Board Meeting
Oct. 17	General Meeting Stitches and Giggles
Oct. 19	Southwesters PPP Deadline
Oct. 26	Lunch Bunch Great Decisions
Oct. 29	New Member Coffee
Nov. 7	Bridge
Dec. 10	Holiday Luncheon
Jan. 16	International Dinner



### Membership

Currently we have 94 members.

AAUW launched the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Membership Campaign November 1, 2010, and because it was such a success, the campaign has been extended to June 30, 2012.

Branches that increase their membership by 7% over the February 1, 2011 count report will earn one free membership to give to a new member. We need 7 new members to qualify....so let's try really hard to meet this goal.

BETTER YET...branch members who recruit at least one new member during FY12 will have their names entered into a drawing that will be held on June 30, 2012, at the end of the campaign. 65 branch members will each win one free membership to give to a NEW member.

Along those lines Southeast Valley Branch will be participating in the Open Houses scheduled in Sun Lakes in October. If you would like to help your Membership Co-chairs in this event, please call Tillie Fortner (899-9343) or Gail Jones (802-7274).

Information for the Open Houses as below:

Sun Lakes Country Club	
Sat., October 8	9:00-12:00 A.M.
Palo Verde/Cottonwood @ Cottonwood Country Club	
Sat., October 15	8:00-12:00 A.M.
IronOaks @ Oakwood Country Club	
Sat. October 22	8:00-12:00 A.M.

NEW MEMBER COFFEE will be held Sat., October 29 at 9:30-11:00 A.M. at Tillie Fortner's home in Oakwood, 9108 E. Rocky Lake Dr. Please mark your calendar. Invitations will be sent mid-October.

Gail Jones, VP Membership Co-Chair  
480-802-7274



### Great Decisions

Great Decisions, a global affairs educational program, promotes awareness and discussion about timely foreign policy issues. Each year, the Great Decisions editorial board selects eight of the most pressing global issues and regions that will be the focus of the briefing book and online resources. The 2011 topics remaining are Germany and The Horn of Africa. The suggested 2012 topics are: Middle East realignment, promoting democracy, Mexico, cyber security, exit from Afghanistan & Iraq, state of the oceans, Indonesia, and energy geopolitics.

The cover price of the Great Decisions 2012 briefing book will be about \$20.00. We also purchase the accompanying DVD which enriches our discussions.

Our October topic is Germany. Virginia Bekavac will be hosting and leading the discussion on Wednesday, October 26 at her home, 9840 E. Sunridge Dr. in Oakwood. Please contact Virginia at [802-8324](tel:802-8324) or [tvbmn2az@att.net](mailto:tvbmn2az@att.net) to let her know you're planning on attending.

We won't be purchasing any books until after our November 16 meeting. That topic will be The Horn of Africa. Madeleine Lutz will host and lead the discussion at her home at 24502 S. Saddletree Dr. in Oakwood. Please contact Madeleine at [802-9784](tel:802-9784) or email her at [mldtwinter@msn.com](mailto:mldtwinter@msn.com) if interested in joining us.

Our meetings feature open and fair conversation without requirement for consensus. Participants take turns facilitating the discussion, and either hosting or co-hosting the meetings.

If you have an interest in foreign affairs, join us for this non-partisan discussion group. We have some lively discussions! We meet the last Wednesday of each month from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. in different homes. Either call me ([480-588-7116](tel:480-588-7116)) or email me ([peck.ellen@gmail.com](mailto:peck.ellen@gmail.com)) to let us know you're planning on attending so that materials can be provided. If you were a member of Great Decisions last year, we will continue to use the 2011 book through November.

Ellen Peck, Chair



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**Co-Presidents Message** submitted by Nathalie Smith

Dear Members,

I look forward to having everyone together at the Branch meeting on Monday, October 17 in the Oakwood Clubhouse at 7:00 P.M. The Board meets on Oct 12 in the Oakwood Clubhouse library at 7:00 P.M.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

- TO: Karen Kenyon who received recognition from the Red Cross for 35 years of service.
- TO: Sharon Gale who is being recognized in Washington D.C. as a pioneer in the Peace Corp.
- TO: The Scottsdale Branch members who will celebrate the Arizona Centennial by producing a show called Celebrating Arizona Women. We are invited to attend on Feb 24 or 25 at Scottsdale Community College (SCC).
- TO: Donna Haugland who is now the corresponding secretary for the Arizona State AAUW.
- TO: ALL of OUR MEMBERS for their intelligence, their friendliness, their energy and all that they do to make our world a better place.
- TO: Margaret Horn for all that she did to start our Branch in 1989. She is the reason that we can begin this new year together.

WE WILL BE KNOWN FOREVER BY THE TRACKS THAT WE LEAVE.

Native American proverb

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW MEMBERS**

A casual gathering for newcomers and those who are interested in becoming members will be held Thursday, 10:00 A.M., October 6th at The Good Egg, 4955 S. Alma School. Ardyth and I look forward to meeting each of you before the General Meeting October 17th.

Please RSVP by October 4 to:

Karen [480-305-0579](tel:480-305-0579)

Ardyth [480-802-3297](tel:480-802-3297)

For more information about AAUW, upcoming activities and/or to receive the Membership Form go to [www.sevbaz.org](http://www.sevbaz.org) We hope to hear from you.

Karen Shaffer and Ardyth Newberg, Co-chairs



**Scholarship Birthday Raffle**

If you have a **Birthday** in **August** or **September** bring a wrapped **gift** value around \$10.00 to the **October 17th General meeting.**



**General Meeting**

**Monday, October 17, 2011 7:00 P.M.**  
**Oakwood Country Club**



**Hon. Ruth V. McGregor**  
**Chief Justice, Arizona Supreme Court**

**(Ret.)**



We are pleased to welcome the Hon. Ruth V. McGregor, Retired Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, as our October 17, 2011 speaker. Justice McGregor served on the Arizona Supreme Court from February 1998 until her retirement on June 30, 2009. She has continued her work in law-related and community activities and has served as an adjunct faculty, teaching courses related to domestic violence and human trafficking.

Her topic at our October meeting will be human trafficking, which affects millions of both foreign and domestic victims and involves complex and inter-related local, national and international laws. Developing approaches that combat human trafficking and protecting its victims presents one of the most difficult challenges facing our justice system.

Susan Meer, Programs Co-Vice President

**Community Action**

One of the special opportunities to volunteer at San Marcos Elementary School is the Art Masterpiece Program.

Art Masterpiece is a volunteer based art enrichment program operating in the Chandler Unified School District. It is based solely on volunteers as there is currently no funding for art education in our schools. Lessons are preplanned, last about an hour and include a hands-on art project.

The purpose is not to teach various art/craft techniques, but rather to increase the child's awareness of art. This is accomplished by introducing the students to various elements of art and principles of design in fun ways that they can easily grasp.

There are openings in all grades K-6. Kindergarten has only three sessions. Grades 1-6 have five sessions remaining this school year.

I have been involved with the Art Masterpiece program for several years and it has been a joy. A third grade boy wrote to me "Mrs. Brown, you are the best art teacher I've ever had. You are the only art teacher I've ever had."

Please join us in this fun and important activity for these children. Sandy Shepoiser is the Art Masterpiece coordinator at San Marcos School and can be reached at [480-883-7975](tel:480-883-7975) or [shepmilk@aol.com](mailto:shepmilk@aol.com).

Beth Brown, Community Action Co-Chair  
[mimzyb@q.com](mailto:mimzyb@q.com) or [480-895-7999](tel:480-895-7999) after 11/11/11





Help Keep the Promises of Social Security

Take Action!

Here at AAUW, we think of Social Security as a promise, a commitment that we as Americans make to care for one another across the generations. Although [Social Security is among our nation's best and most efficiently-run anti-poverty programs](#), it's particularly critical for elderly women -- more than half of whom would fall into poverty without it. So, we are interested when good ideas come along aimed at strengthening and improving Social Security.

Well, a new bill recently introduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) presents us with a great idea: **We can close Social Security's funding gap by lifting the cap on payroll taxes for Social Security purposes.**

If it sounds complex, it's not. Right now, 94 percent of Americans pay into Social Security on the basis of their whole salary -- but the wealthiest 6 percent do not. Because the cap for individual income stands at \$106,800, someone who makes that much pays exactly the same amount into Social Security as does a millionaire or a billionaire.

The Keeping Our Social Security Promises Act (S. 1558) would gradually lift the cap so that by 2033, the wealthiest 6 percent of Americans will be on equal footing with everyone else. This plan would extend the full solvency of Social Security for the next 75 years, ensuring that the program continues to help provide retirement security for future generations.

**Take Action!** Ask your Senators to become a cosponsor of the Keeping Our Social Security Promises Act (S. 1558). You can send a message by clicking the "Take Action" link above or by visiting [AAUW Two Minute Activist](#).

**Remember:** You can always help strengthen AAUW's efforts to protect and strengthen Social Security by [making a tax-deductible donation to AAUW's Public Policy Fund!](#)

**Double your impact!** Tweet, Facebook, and forward this action alert to friends and family.

**Have a smartphone?** AAUW Two Minute Activist now works on your iPhone, Android handset, or Blackberry.

Submitted by Margaret Noser, Public Policy Chair



### Evening Books

Tuesday Evening—October 11—7:00 P.M.

We will be reading *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. The book tells the story of a black woman who died of cancer but her cells were used for scientific tests. The question of ethics comes into play. This should lead to stimulating discussions.

Our leader will be Leo Recker and our hostess is Judy Manley. Directions to her home are: From Oakwood or SLCC, enter Cottonwood at Robson Drive, come to the stop sign and turn left onto Howard Drive. Go about 1/2 mile and turn right on Watford Way, then take the first left onto S. Beech Creek Drive. We are on the left side of the street, halfway down the block. The address is 26429. Our name is on the mailbox. From Ironwood or Palo Verde, enter Cottonwood at Chestnut Drive off Alma School. Go to the stop sign, turn left on Howard, take the first right on Watford Way, and the first left on S. Beech Creek Drive.

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

Elaine O'Brien, Chair

### Annual Fundraiser for AAUW

We call it our Red Envelope Luncheon and its purpose is to raise money for AAUW Educational Funds. Every contributing member may give money to the general fund or name a specific fund. Our fund raising helps women in our community and nationally achieve their goals by helping to fund their education. This year on December 10 we will have our luncheon at Cottonwood Country Club at 11:00 A.M. We will have a great meal and we will have our local scholarship winners say a few words. A small singing ensemble will entertain us. The decorations will be festive as will our spirits. The holiday season is made better by knowing we are helping those who need our help.

The invitations are to be sent out the beginning of November so please respond and give generously.

MarlyLou Remley, Co-Chair



### Afternoon Books

Monday Afternoon—October 10—2:00 P.M.

The afternoon book group which meets on the second Monday of each month, will gather on October 10 at the home of Susan Meer at 2:00 P.M. The book selection is *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. The discussion will be led by Marcia Wagoner. All AAUW members are cordially invited.

Directions are: Enter Oakwood at the Sun Lakes Blvd gate. Turn left or west at Nacoma, the first street after you enter the gate. Turn right or North on Lakestar. Lakestar is just one house length off Nacoma. Lakestar turns left and becomes E. Cedar Waxwing. My house is the second house on the left, 9043 E. Cedar Waxwing Dr.

susanmeer@aol.com or 480-895-4664

Marcia Wagoner and Betty Raveret, Co-Chairs

### Board Meeting

October 12, 2011 at 7 P.M.

Library, Oakwood C.C.

RSVP regrets only to

**Nathalie Smith**

**Nathalie.aauw@gmail.com**

or

**Carmen Otero**

**hc02@aol.com**



## AAUW Singles Group

Good food, good company and good conversation are the goals of the AAUW Singles Group. Members meet the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 P.M. at a specific restaurant chosen by members. Please contact Helen Semple at: [haseemple@gmail.com](mailto:haseemple@gmail.com) or 802-8199

Helen Semple, Chair



## Afternoon Bridge

Monday, October 3, 2011, our AAUW group of bridge players will meet in the Saguaro Room at the Cottonwood Clubhouse at 1:00 P.M. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are available to play with us.

If you wish to have lunch before the game, please meet in the Cottonwood Bar and Grill at 11:30 A.M. Otherwise, bring your own beverage and be there a little before 1:00 P.M.

Margaret Horn, Chair

## Prickly Pear Postings

Deadline

October 19, 2011

Email submissions to

[Sue Garretson—garysue1@q.com](mailto:SueGarretson-garysue1@q.com)

and

[Sheila Petriello—ramishma@hotmail.com](mailto:SheilaPetriello-ramishma@hotmail.com)

## Stitches and Giggles

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our first regularly scheduled gathering on Monday, October 17, 1:00 P.M. at the home of Carmen Otero. Finish or start that knitting, quilting, embroidery, crocheting, or repair project you've been too busy to work on lately. If you have something you've been meaning to finish for the holidays, join us. We can catch up on our sewing and share summer experiences.

To find Carmen's house, enter at the Sun Lakes gate and go to the second street on your right. This will be Lakeway Circle, follow the curve half way around until you see her house number on your right. We're really looking forward to seeing you there since this will be the first time this year that all of the winter "snowbird" gals will be able to join us.

Cheryl Pullan and Diane Larson,  
Co-Chairs

## Directory Correction

Please notify Judy Manley concerning directory corrections or additions. The directories will be available at the October Board Meeting and General Meeting.

480- 883-0944

[manley@wbhsi.net](mailto:manley@wbhsi.net)

## Lunch Bunch

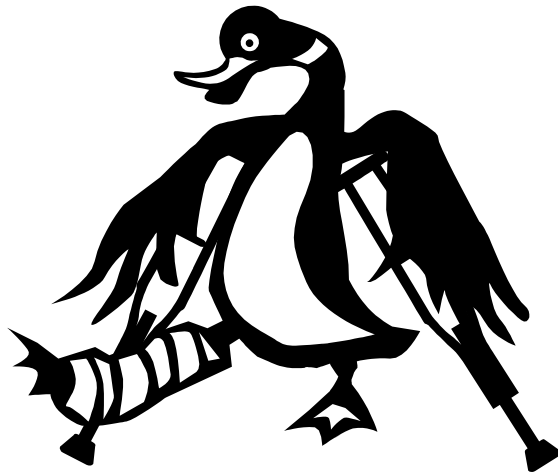
Our first luncheon was a great success. We had a lovely lunch at Bernard's in Ocotillo and are looking forward to our following meetings.

On Wednesday, October 26, we will be going to Rita's Kitchen at the Camelback Inn, Marriott Resort in Scottsdale. You will be enjoying your meal in an authentic Adobe setting with the shade of a sprawling Ironwood tree in our midst.

We can't wait to see all of you there. We will meet at the Education Center at 10:45 A.M. at Alma School & Riggs Rd.

If you can join us, please contact Pris Corbus.  
Pris Corbus, [priscorbus@gmail.com](mailto:priscorbus@gmail.com), 883-8365

Pris Corbus and Kathy Burns,  
Co-Chairs



### DRIVERS WHO CARE

Sometimes there comes a time  
When we cannot drive.  
Our eyes are bad  
but don't be sad,  
We hurt our leg  
no need to beg,  
Give me a call  
I arrange all  
Or send an email  
that will not fail  
And a ride at your house  
You will see  
So, at the AAUW meeting  
you will be.

**If you are willing to drive let me know  
If you need a ride let me know.**

Donna Haugland  
[dhaugland.aauw@gmail.com](mailto:dhaugland.aauw@gmail.com)



## SOUTHWESTERS

Welcome to Southwesters! This group is open to any AAUW member who might enjoy a special outing to a local historical or cultural site. If that's you, then we have a series of events that members won't want to miss. Join us for some exciting times, exploring and experiencing the Southwest together.

Our first outing will be Wednesday, October 19. At 10:30 A.M., we will visit the **Japanese Friendship Garden**, 1125 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. in downtown Phoenix, for a private tea ceremony and docent tour of the garden. At 12:30 P.M., we will have lunch at Nabuo at Teeter House—an award-winning, Asian-style teahouse located in an 1899 bungalow in historic Heritage Square. We will be provided with separate checks and will be seated in our own private dining room.

Does this sound like fun? Then call Janet Ott, your October hostess, at 485-896-7238 or e-mail her at [jan7238@wbhsi.net](mailto:jan7238@wbhsi.net), sending your check (payable to her) to 8912 E. Emerald Drive. Advance payment is required for this event, and the cost is \$25 per person. She will need to receive your check no later than Monday, October 10.

For those who wish to carpool, the group will meet at 9:30 A.M. and leave promptly at 9:45 A.M. from the Education Center at Alma School and Riggs Road. (Please plan to assist your driver with \$3/per person for gas.)

TRIP: Japanese Friendship Garden  
1125 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Phoenix (Just below Interstate 10)  
(602) 256-3204

DATE: Wednesday, October 19

COST: \$25 (includes tea ceremony, with snack, and a docent-guided tour)

TIME: 9:30 A.M. (Leave at 9:45)

GATHERING PLACE: Education Center, Riggs and Alma School Road

We look forward to welcoming you back!

Janet Ott, Jeannine Garrard, Jill Middleton,--Southwesters Committee

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### International Dinner

Save the Date

The International Dinner will be in January 2012 instead of February. The date is January 16. Mark your calendar. More information will be in the November newsletter.

Joyce Pocras and Gail Jones,  
Co- Chairs



**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.

**AAUW National Website**

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

**AAUW Southeast Valley**

Branch Website

[www.sevbaz.org](http://www.sevbaz.org)

**AAUW Arizona State Website**

[www.aauwarizona.org](http://www.aauwarizona.org)

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