



Prickly Pear Postings

SE Valley Branch,
AAUW

Volume 23, No. 1
September 2011

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

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Co-Presidents Message submitted by Nathalie Smith

Dear Members,

Carmen and I hope that you had a relaxing summer even though you experienced some of the wild weather that happened wherever you spent time this summer. Domestic and foreign policies made us eager for all that news as well. Our PUBLIC POLICY Chair and the GREAT DECISIONS Group will help us learn more.

And now, it's time to look forward to more of AAUW mind stimulating experiences. Our PRESIDENT ELECT, Jeannine Reynolds, has attended the National Convention in Washington, D.C. and will share important news with us. Timely SPEAKERS have been planned for our monthly meetings, interesting MEMBERSHIP ideas are ready to grow our branch, the TREASURER has new software and our SECRETARY is again prepared to keep her precise minutes of board meetings. COMMUNITY ACTION has a new and exciting plan for student math and science motivation.

Mark your Calendar for the RED ENVELOPE LUNCHEON and the INTERNATIONAL DINNER. New ideas and dates are ready for SCHOLARSHIP funding. Up to date information is always at hand when you read the PRICKLY PEAR and consult your DIRECTORY. Creative plans are at the ready for TV shows from our HISTORIAN'S photos. Members' personal news can be submitted to the SOCIAL CORRESPONDENT or to the CO-PRESIDENTS. Publicity news should be sent to COMMUNICATIONS.

All ACTIVITY committees have fall plans ready for your participation.

OUR OUTSTANDING BRANCH IS HERE FOR YOU! ! ! !

We value your PARTICIPATION.

AAUW Events

Sept. 13	Evening Books
Sept. 21	PPP Deadline
Sept. 26	Lunch Bunch
Oct. 3	Bridge
Oct. 10	Afternoon Books
Oct. 11	Evening Books
Oct. 12	Board Meeting
Oct. 17	General Meeting
	Stitches and Giggles
Oct. 19	Southwesters
Oct. 19	PPP Deadline
Oct. 26	Lunch Bunch
	Great Decisions
Dec. 10	Holiday Luncheon
Jan. 16	International Dinner



FREE and Easy Power at Our Fingertips

AAUW offers us a super easy and painless way to let our national representatives know our wishes on key legislative issues.

All you need to do is register with VoterEd@aauw.org. It's free! You simply enter your zip code and the website will automatically load the addresses for your representatives in both houses of Congress. Then periodically via e-mail, you will be notified about upcoming key votes.



To make the process still easier, a script is provided. You are able to freely edit the copy, picking and choosing your message as well as adding your own words if you wish. You can preview the copy before the email is sent and receive conformation. The whole process takes only minutes and your communication has a multiplying impact in Washington.

You will also be informed when your representative plans a "town meeting" in our community. AAUW also shares some tips in effective techniques to use when communicating in person.

This website is one way that your national dues directly benefit the individual member. So no more excuses about not having the time or the information necessary to influence public policy. There's great power at your fingertips! Let's get **all** the members of our branch connected and exercise our voices.

Margaret Noser
Public Policy Chair

Community Action

San Marcos Elementary School has been in session since July. Volunteers are needed in many areas of the school. Classroom volunteers are always appreciated. Depending on the teacher's needs, you may help with reading or other areas of student difficulties. There are needs in kindergarten, the library, the cafeteria, the playground or chaperoning on field trips. You might want to help out in the office or in the parent center. Jaime Merrill, the Curriculum Specialist, will help you find a slot that works for you and the school.

Arizona AAUW accepted our grant application. The funds will be used to purchase biographies of recent and current outstanding women to help inspire girls to be more. For 2012 a program of Women in science is planned. We will have a variety of successful women in science and technology to tell the children how interesting science can be and that these are fields in which women can be as successful as men. The program will take place in October, 2012. I can use suggestions and names of women in all fields of science and technology who would be interested in helping.

Diane Beatty, Community Action Co-Chair
beattybooks@yahoo.com or [480-895-3687](tel:480-895-3687)

Holiday Luncheon

Please add the Holiday Luncheon to your calendars. The AAUW Funds – Red Envelope Luncheon will be on Saturday **Dec. 10** at 11 A.M. at Cottonwood Country Club. There will be more information in the October issue of the *Prickly Pear Posting*.

Marylou Remley and Tunny O'Rourke
Co-Chairs

Membership Report

Southeast Valley Branch is starting the 2011-12 year with 92 members. Thank you for your prompt renewal!! We welcome our new members Jan Bobbett, Mary Margaret Kibler and Evelyn Smith. Their information will be included in the Directory being compiled by Judy Manley.

If you know of someone who would be interested in joining our Branch, please give us her name OR have her contact us for further information. We will be at all the Open Houses in October, so please look for our table and stop by to say "Hello".

A Membership Form is on page 9 of this issue of the *Prickly Pear Posting*.

Tillie Fortner, 480 899-9434 or wrightfort@q.com and Gail Jones, 480 802-7274 or gjsunlakes@aol.com
Co-Membership Vice Presidents



AAUW Convention 2011

Washington D.C.

Convention 2011 in Washington, D.C. was a success. Even the weather cooperated for a very pleasant time. Approximately 800 members, including at least 12 from Arizona, gathered at the Renaissance Hotel on June 16-19 for four days of learning, sharing, advocacy, and entertainment.

I do not remember ever before being part of an audience on C-Span as I was for *A Conversation on Justice* regarding the Wal-Mart v. Dukes pay discrimination lawsuit which AAUW supported. Unfortunately, before the convention was over, the Supreme Court had ruled that the class-action suit could not go forward. We were cheered, however, by Lilly Ledbetter's participation as she was honored for her perseverance that resulted in passage of the Fair Pay Act.

Lobby Day on Capitol Hill focused on three issues it was felt might have a reasonable chance of coming to pass. Legislators were asked to strengthen Social Security, support the creation of a National Women's History Museum, and improve safety on college campuses through the Campus SAVE Act.

The two individual workshops that I attended were "Why do Women Join or Stay in an Organization?" and "Program in a Box". Many of these resources are now on the AAUW website and I will be sharing some of them with our board.

Of the special tours offered, I chose to see the national AAUW office. It contains all of the historical documents since its beginning, including an original painting donated by Georgia O'Keefe. I came away with more of an appreciation of our foremothers who paved the way for Breaking Through Barriers for women and girls.

There were many excellent speakers. There was a panel discussion with Women in Power in the Obama Administration, including the First Lady's Chief of Staff. The keynote speaker for the Banquet was psychotherapist Sarah Brokaw, daughter of Tom Brokaw, who has volunteered in Rwanda and Bosnia where she met courageous women who have become powerful members of their communities after participation in Women for Women International's educational program.

All in all, it was an inspiring experience—and it was fun as well! The next convention in 2013 will be in New Orleans, and I highly recommend it. I was honored to represent the Southeast Valley Branch this time, and appreciate your sending me.

Submitted by Jeannine Reynolds



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** someone to a meeting, I need your **name** and **area** (Cottonwood Oakwood, out of areas etc.) where you could pick up someone. If you need a ride, let me know.

Donna Haugland
dhaugland.aauw@gmail.com
802-3737
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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. 3rd 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, 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. 3rd 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 A.M.)
GATHERING PLACE: Education Center, Riggs and Alma School Road

We look forward to welcoming you back!

Jeannine Garrard, Jill Middleton, Janet Ott
Southwesters Committee

Stitches and Giggles

Stitches and Giggles meets the third Monday of each month at Carmen Otero's home at 1:00 P.M. Her address is 24411 South Lakeway Circle. If you like to sew, mend, quilt, embroider, knit, or cross stitch, please join us! Hey, you can come just to talk, giggle and sew on a button! We hope to see many of you at the October 17 Sew In.

Diane Larson and Cheryl Pullan, Co-Chairs

Lunch Bunch

Our Lunch Bunch begins the season with our traditional meeting at **Bernard's** located at Ocotillo Golf Resort. It is located very close to Sun Lakes and has been such fun in the past seeing everyone again. It will be on **Monday, September 26 at 11:30 A.M.** No car pool will be arranged since the restaurant is so close. Please let Kathy Burns know you are coming, interiorelements@yahoo.com

Other luncheons planned are:

Wednesday **October 26** Camelback Inn

Wednesday **November 30** House of the Secret Garden

Holiday Luncheon in December

Monday **January 23** VinciTorio's

Wednesday **February 29** Brio

Monday **March 26** Lon's

Monday **April 23** House of Tricks

Pris Corbus, Kathy Burns, Karen Shaffer
Co-Chairs

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Summer Fun

Another hot summer but enough entertaining activities were held to keep us COOL! Karen Shaffer arranged our luncheons at new and interesting places. Cheryl Pullen had not one but two sessions of napkin folding. Janet Cox organized our bridge sessions. Sharon Gale introduced us to movie making and Donna Haugland taught us about digital pictures.

Karen Shaffer, Helen Semple, Sue Garretson, Summer Fun Committee

Being Creative

The Summer Fun members planning their table arrangements for the holidays: (from left to right) Debbie Brewster, Jan Ott, Tillie Fortner, Susan Meer and Carol Nicholas.



Picture by Cheryl Pullen

The End Result



Picture and creative development by Cheryl Pullen

New Members

Our New Member group meets monthly from November through May to do fun events of your choice together. The first official gathering of New Members will be in November, but if you are new to AAUW please contact Karen Shaffer at [480-305-0579](tel:480-305-0579) or shafferkk@att.net or Ardyth Newberg at [480-802-3297](tel:480-802-3297) or anewberg@aol.com. We plan to welcome you at the general meeting in October, but please call either Karen or Ardyth any time before the meetings start so we can get to know you early.

Karen Shaffer and Ardyth Newberg
Co-Chairs

AAUW SINGLES GROUP

Good food, good company and good conversation are the goals of the AAUW Singles Group. Members meet the 1st Tuesday of the month at 5:30 P.M. at a specific restaurant chosen by members. Please contact Helen Semple at <http://hasemple@gmail.com> or 480-802-8199 for more information.

Helen Semple. Chair



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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. Its purpose is to promote better understanding of the issues that face our world today. The 2011 topics include: Rebuilding Haiti, U.S. National Security, Horn of Africa, Responding to the Financial Crisis, Germany, Sanctions and Nonproliferation, The Caucasus, and Global Governance. Our meetings feature open and fair conversation without requirement for consensus.

The cost for materials is about \$20 which covers the cost of each member's briefing book and the DVD that goes along with each topic. Participants take turns facilitating the discussion and either hosting or co-hosting the meetings in our homes.

If you have an interest in foreign affairs, join us for this non-partisan discussion group. No special knowledge is required for this informal discussion forum, just an inquiring mind. We meet the last Wednesday of each month from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Come join us. We have some lively discussions! Either call me (480-588-7116) or email me (peck.ellen@gmail.com) to let us know you're planning on attending so that materials can be provided.

"The Great Decisions group has brought us together, to learn, to think, to discuss, and to take actions. I think I can make a broad statement by saying that our members are now citizens of the world!"

Joan Byerhof, The Wilderness, FL,
Great Decisions Group

Ellen Peck, Chair

Prickly Pear Postings

Deadline

September 21

Email submissions to

Sue Garretson - garysue1@q.com

and

Sheila Petriello—ramishma@hotmail.com



Afternoon Books

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 and the discussion will be led by Marcia Wagoner. Please call or email Susan if you plan to attend. All AAUW members are cordially invited.

Marcia Wagoner & Betty Raveret,
Co-Chairs

Evening Book Club

September 13 at 7:00 P.M.

The book for the September 13 meeting is *The Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. Judy Baur will lead the discussion. Judy has invited Cynthia Nasisa Maher to join us with her input on the book. The meeting will be held at the home of Debbie Brewster.

Directions: Enter Cottonwood at Riggs Road and Robson Drive – proceed to stop sign. Turn left on Howard Drive and continue to Watford Way. Turn right on Watford and take the second left onto Greencastle Drive. Debbie's house is a little more than half-way down the street on your left. The address is 26425 S. Greencastle. Please let Debbie know if you are coming, jimbomountainjim@aol.com or 895-2148.

Hope to see you at book club in September.

Elaine O'Brien, Chair



Afternoon Bridge

Our group will not meet in September because many of our players are out of town. We will play on October 3 if enough players have returned. I will be sending an email in September for reservations. If you would like to join please email me at mhornteeup@wbhsi.net.

Margaret Horn, Chair



**AAUW SOUTHEAST VALLEY BRANCH
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2011-2012**

*Please print legibly and put an * by any information that is new or needs to be corrected. Please fill out the information even though it has not changed since last year. This information is used to develop the directory and a completed form enables us to provide accurate information in the directory.*

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE(S): Home: _____ Cell: _____ - _____

E-MAIL: _____

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: _____

DEGREE(S)/YR. RECEIVED: _____

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

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

If you DO NOT wish to have any of your identifying information, i.e. telephone, address, email published in the Prickly Pear (The Southeast Valley Branch Newsletter), please put a check mark in the blank space below.

_____ I DO NOT want any of my identifying information to be published in the Southeast Valley Newsletter, the Prickly Pear.

DUES FOR 2011 - 2012 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:

Gale Jones
10507 E. Arrowvale Dr.
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248
480-802-7274
gjsunlakes@aol.com

Tillie Fortner
9108 E. Rocky Lake Dr.
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248
480-899-9434
sunlakesfort@aol.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.

AAUW National Website

www.aauw.org

AAUW Southeast Valley

Branch Website

www.sevbaz.org

AAUW Arizona State Website

www.aauwarizona.org

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AAUW