



Arizona Sun Summer June 2010



AAUW-AZ State Convention April 9 - 10, 2010

By Kay Harbert, State Convention Chairman

It was a beautiful weekend on the Northwest Side of Tucson where Casas Adobes Branch hosted our State Convention, April 9-10. The Welcoming Dinner Friday night was held at El Conquistador Country Club where the lovely views of Tucson and surrounding areas were enjoyed. Oro Valley's Mayor **Paul Loomis**, surprised us during his welcome by describing how important AAUW was to his mother many years ago. **Kyrsten Simena**, Arizona State House Representative was a dynamic speaker who kept us captivated while she discussed the problems of our Legislature.

Saturday's events went as planned with more than 115 members, speakers, and participants in the activities. This was held at the Casas Adobes Congregational Church on Oracle Road where their Fellowship Group prepared and served the Continental Breakfast and Luncheon. **Brownie Troop #518** of the Saguaro Council, a Special Needs Troop, did a wonderful job of presenting the Colors before the meeting started. The program committee under the tutelage of **Liz Rielly** did an outstanding job of choosing and arranging our speakers. You can read elsewhere in this issue the synopsis of their talks.

The Business Meeting was brisk but efficient. Sara Wolters and **Gail Garrison** were installed as the new State President and Treasurer, respectively. The basket drawing for the Education Opportunities Fund (formerly EF) was exciting, and over \$900 was contributed to national from the participating members.

Our branch was happy to host this event and looks forward to advising and helping next year's hosts. Many hands made it a fairly simple and our branch is proud and thankful to all who helped.



"Breaking Through Barriers: Key Issues For The Next Decade"

By Baleka Baker, AZ Sun Editor

This year's state convention opened Friday night with a welcome dinner. The El Conquistador Golf Resort and Country Club treated us to an oriental buffet with time to socialize and share with friends and colleagues. State Representative **Kyrsten Sinema** was our evening's speaker. **Sinema** spoke about bills that have passed, the current budget crises and the legislatures decisions on budget cuts. Unfortunately, many bills that were passed and the cuts to human services and education, directly affect women and girls. **Sinema** encouraged us all to support Proposition 100. If the sales tax increase doesn't pass, deeper cuts to human services and education would be the result. Although most of what we heard was discouraging **Sinema** mentioned the recent successful defeat of a bill that would have required divorcing couples even those who were victims of domestic violence, to participate in 6 months of counseling at their own expense.

Saturday, we started with a delicious continental breakfast with time to meet and greet other members

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AAUW ARIZONA

2009-2010

**AAUW-Arizona
Board of Directors**

Executive Committee:

Barbara Neubert	President
Elizabeth Rielly	Program Vice President
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Connie Harrison	Educational Foundation
Sara Wolters	Finance
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Vacant	Public Policy
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Karen Willett	Webmaster
Eloise Fredrickson	Nomination Committee

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Judy Hodgins	Co-Chair

President's Message

*Barbara Neubert,
AAUW-Arizona President*



My term of office is coming to a close and I would like to thank the members of the board for the time and effort they have given serving the state. Thank you to this year's convention planners, Kay Harbert and the members of Casas Adobes Tucson Branch, who worked hard to make the convention run smoothly. The President's Council was efficiently run by the co-presidents, and the board and council shared information and concerns.

AAUW-AZ is beginning a new year with two elected board positions not filled. AAUW-AZ has many experienced and capable members who could fill these positions. It is important that AAUW-AZ have a complete board to fulfill the functions of the state. Our national organization has many requirements to be completed on the state level. Take the time to consider being a member of the state board. You will enjoy working with the members of the board and the branches.

I enjoyed visiting the branches and learning about the varied community projects taking place and the many scholarships being funded. As members we can be proud that we continue to improve the lives of women and girls.



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from around the state. We had time to buy raffle tickets for 17 decorated and themed baskets for the Educational Opportunities Fund, formerly the Educational Foundation.

Our keynote address was delivered by **Linda Hallman**, AAUW Executive Director. **Hallman** related key points published in *The Shiver Report: A Woman's Nation Changes Everything*. The most startling statistics discovered — for the first time in America's history women now make up half of all workers in the United States and nearly two-thirds of women are now either the primary or co-breadwinner for their families. As such these changes will have a profound effect on our overall economy but as yet have not been recognized by government or business policies and practices. Based on these findings **Hallman** ended with these AAUW recommendations:

- Expanding the Family and Medical Leave Act
- Enacting the Paycheck Fairness Act
- Encouraging careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) professions
- Strengthening the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and improving access to higher education
- Continuing affirmative action programs that establish equal opportunities for women and minorities

David Mitchell, State Director, Arizona AARP, was our next speaker. In a presentation on "Leading a Multigenerational Workforce," **Mitchell** detailed characteristics of our four generation workforce. Each generation of workers have different perspectives on work ethics, communication, leadership and authority. **Mitchell** showed how knowledge of these traits could be used to successfully integrate mixed generation work teams.

The last speaker of the morning was **Darcy Renfro**, Vice President and Director of STEM Initiatives, Science Foundation Arizona, a 501 (c)3 public/private non-profit organization dedicated to improving education and economic opportunity in Arizona by making STEM education available to more students. **Renfro** spoke about the need for STEM careers and the educational and business partners with which they work. **Renfro** detailed a few of the projects they currently sponsor including: sponsorship of high school STEM programs and projects, Biosphere 2 Teacher Training, Arizona First Robotics Competition, University partnerships and the Galileoscope Project.

After lunch the afternoon business session was brisk. **Barbara Neubert**, State President presided. Annual officer reports were given. **Susan Youngdahl** gave the report of the Bylaws Committee and moved the adoption of the 2010 Proposed Revisions of the AAUW-AZ Bylaws.

Esther Scher of Tucson Branch reports:

Members of the AAUW-Tucson and Casas Adobes Branches were concerned about the process in creating the AAUW-Arizona bylaws revisions for 2010-2010, as well as the drastic changes recommended. We spent almost five hours studying the by-laws and decided that the best procedure was to move to refer the document to a new committee for 2010. This new committee would then have time to inform the membership of the proposed revisions and seek input and suggestions to put before the convention in 2011. We gave three reasons for these actions: the state president was not notified of the meetings of the committee, the changes were based on answers from a small sample of the membership at the Fall Forum, and the membership was not notified of the proposed revisions in writing thirty days before the convention.

A motion was presented by **Baleka Baker**, Tucson Branch to have the Proposed Revisions of the AAUW-AZ Bylaws referred for further study by a new Bylaws Committee for 2011. The motion was passed by a 2/3 vote. The state continues with the mandatory changes made in the 2009 Bylaws.

Other motions included approving the Public Policy Program, supporting the passage of Proposition 100 including the use of

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AAUW-AZ name as a supporter in the Voter Information Pamphlet, and opposing the ballot referendum from **Ward Connerly** to abolish affirmative action.

The Nominating Committee presented their slate of officers for 2010-2012 and the election followed. The long awaited basket raffle winners were announced as **Susan Youngdahl** prepared to install the new state officers. **Sara Wolters** was installed as our new State President and **Gail Garrison** was installed for a second term as Treasurer. **Sara** has new and creative ideas to share with us in the coming year. Let's get to know her!



Thinking Ahead To the Future

By Sara Wolters, Newly Elected
AAUW-AZ State President

As I think about being your newly elected AZ State President, my mind is a whirl. Thoughts spin. First and foremost is my belief that the work of the state organization is to support the AAUW Mission and that it has an obligation to work for the branches. Therefore we must know what the branches expect of us and how we can best serve them. With the new national by-law structure, we all need to be thinking about a bottom-up style, as opposed to the more typical



top-down management style. Our state still has some serious bylaw concerns and we will be addressing them as we move forward, based on the action taken at the annual convention.

My term actually begins on July 1, and between now and then we will have another board meeting of the old and new boards. There is much to do. There are some positions that need to be filled on the incoming board. Specifically, we need a Program VP and a Corresponding Secretary. We will need to identify locations and sponsoring branches for the Fall Forum and the 2011 State Convention. Also under review is how to facilitate the public policy functions that are critical to our organization without a state chairman, as that position appears to be impossible to fill. We will also have to appoint a new bylaws committee.

There are many excellent leaders within the state organization, and I welcome all volunteers to help us move the state and AAUW

forward. I need your help to learn how the state can be more effective in supporting our mission and our branches.

In my role as Finance Chair, I led a committee in discussions about how to best use the funds that had been accumulated in the state treasury. Several years ago the state took on an austerity program that led to this accumulation. The two significant changes that led this thrift program were the sending the newsletter electronically, and holding meetings in free locations. The state continues to watch its funds very carefully. However, these funds are not doing anything to support our mission while they sit in bank accounts. Several ideas have evolved, but we are asking for your suggestions as to the best use of these funds in support of our branches and our mission.

So I need your help as I take up the gavel on July first. All suggestions and ideas will be entertained. I look forward to visiting all branches, attending your meetings and meeting more of you. You will be hearing more from me as we move ahead in AAUW.

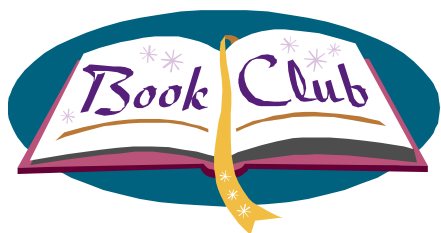


Summer Reading!

By Nancy Cannon, International Affairs

Summer, for most of us in the southwest, is approaching quickly. With that in mind, and assuming

most of us spend as much time as possible cuddled up to our air conditioning units, this column is devoted to suggestions for summer reading recommended by the AAUW International Affairs Committee. These books may even be resources for the many book groups which we seem to have in almost all of the branches. The focus in all of them is on the impact women have had in promoting peace, and the welfare of women in various countries. The list featured here is just a sampling of the many books written by women, for women. Most are non-fiction, but I have included a novel, and



several auto-biographies.

This Was Not Our War by **Swanee Hunt**, who was the U. S. Ambassador to Austria in the 1900s. She has written the testimonies of 26 women who were the survivors of Bosnia's ethnic upheavals.

Purple Hibiscus by **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**, is a novel which traces the story of a 15 year old girl, growing up under the influence of a powerful father, who, while an important figure in politics and society, is a tyrant at home. The author has received many awards, including the 2008 "genius grant" from the MacArthur Foundation.

Women and Gender in Islam by **Leila Ahmed**, is an historical review of the role that women have played in their societies down through the ages. The author was appointed the first professor of women's studies in religion at Harvard Divinity School.

Alice Walker, who also wrote *The Color Purple*, has written *Possessing The Secret of Joy*, a novel on the problem of female genitalia mutilation, and the effect it has on the lives of women.

Madam Secretary by **Madeline Albright**, is the autobiography of the first woman to serve as U.S. Secretary of State. She writes about her personal story as well as the issues with which she dealt as Secretary of State.

These are just a few of the books on the list, which is more extensive, and available through AAUW International Affairs online.



AAUW
Rocky Mountain
Conference
The New AAUW—
Mission and Action
June 11-13, 2010

For Late Registration Information and Registration Form:

Go to AAUW Arizona website:
www.aauwarizona.org

Click on Calendar for information and registration form.

Come to Colorful Colorado to enjoy viewing and hiking snow capped mountains, visiting historical sites and favorite shopping locales while attending the AAUW Rocky Mountain States Conference. This three day event will highlight the western state focus and global perspectives of AAUW programs.

Friday, June 11 we kick off the three day conference with an address by **Linda Meric**, Executive Director of 9to5, the National Working Women's Organization. Linda will be followed by a panel of women representing BPW, the Women's Chamber, 9to5 and small business owners who will discuss the realities of implementing pay equity and legislation affecting working women. **Jill Tietjen**, President and CEO of a consulting firm and mentor to young women will conduct a workshop on "Taking Humor Seriously." The afternoon concludes with dynamic workshops presented by state leaders on the financial stability of women of various ages and political advocacy in an increasingly contentious environment. Friday evening we adjourn to The Plains Conservation Center for an evening of food, fun, and entertainment.

Saturday will feature **Kathy Anthon**, AAUW Board of Directors who will conduct sessions on membership, fundraising and items of concern in the West. You will meet the AAUW national Leadership Corps liaisons who will explain their role in working

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with our states.

AAUW American Fellowship recipient, **Dawn Traut** is scheduled as the noontime speaker. Afternoon workshops include the topics of mission-based programming, E-branches and programs that change the community. Saturday evening we will hold the Legacy in Leadership Awards dinner. **Tina Griego**, Denver Post columnist is the guest speaker.

Sleep in or walk/run in a fundraiser Sunday morning for Educational Programs and LAF, then enjoy breakfast with friends, reports from the state presidents and a wrap-up from **Kathy Anthon**. Before noon we say goodbye to our old and new friends and journey home filled with terrific ideas and plans for AAUW programs.

Featured Speakers

Kathy Anthon, AAUW Board of Directors

Kathy Anthon, of Grapevine, Texas, is serving a two-year term on the national AAUW Board of Directors. She has been an AAUW member since 1999. **Anthon** has served in various AAUW leadership roles, including branch president for AAUW Northeast Tarrant County and then as president of the North Texas Interbranch Council. She is also vice president of the Legal Advocacy Fund for the AAUW Texas State Board of Directors. She graduated from the State University of New York system with bachelor's and master's degrees in education. In addition,

she has earned a master's level certification in public administration.

Linda Meric, National Director 9to5

Linda Meric is the Executive Director of 9to5, National Association of Working Women, an inclusive multi-racial membership organization founded in 1973 to strengthen the ability of low-income women to win economic justice through grassroots organizing and policy advocacy. She helped found 9to5 Colorado in 1996 and served as the chapter's Director until fall 2004 when she became 9to5's national Director. Under **Meric's** leadership, 9to5 has won important victories on minimum wage, good jobs, work-family, anti-discrimination, pay equity, welfare, child care, unemployment and other issues affecting low-income women. Before 9to5, Meric spent 20 years as a labor and community organizer. She has received several awards for her work with and on behalf of low-income women.

Jill Tietjen, Author and Engineer

Jill S. Tietjen, P.E., is an author, speaker, and electrical engineer. Her published books include the *Setting the Record Straight* series (co-authored with Betty Reynolds), which explores the history of women's accomplishments in accounting, engineering, and professional achievement, and an introduction to engineering textbook (for use by college freshmen), *Keys to Engineering Success*. She is one of the top historians in the country

on scientific and technical women. She is the CEO of Technically Speaking, a national consulting company specializing in improving opportunities for women and girls to have more career options in technology.

Dawn Traut, American Fellowship Recipient

Dawn Traut has 13 years of international development experience and specializes in governance and civil society. She has extensive project design, management, and evaluation experience in USAID-funded democracy-building programs. **Traut** recently made a career change to focus on domestic issues in social work. When she completes her master's of social work, she plans to work in a therapeutic and community development role to help Latinas.



From the Editor:

It has been my pleasure to be the *AZ Sun Editor* these last two years. I am moving on to greater responsibilities and duties so will gladly turn over the editor position to a new person that will continue delivering a professional newsletter to our AAUW-AZ members. I have developed meaningful friendships and will continue to see you all at Fall Forums and Conventions. Have a safe and happy summer!





Casa Adobes State Convention Chr,
Kay Harbert with Oro Valley Mayor
Paul Loomis

Speakers Photographed by
Kay Carlson,
Casa Adobes Tucson Branch
Others by
Ann Mitchell,
Northwest Valley Branch



Keynote Speaker,
Linda Hallman, AAUW Executive Director



Speaker
State Representative
Kyrsten Sinema



Photo by Kay Carlson



AAUW-AZ State Convention
April 9 - 10, 2010

We Enjoyed Great Speakers,
Great Ideas, Great Friends and
Great Fun!

American Association of
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AAUW Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold an associate's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There are no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.



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AAUW 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.

The AAUW "Value Promise" is a product of the recent Strategic Process undertaken by AAUW members and leaders over the past couple of years. Establishing this Value Promise has been an important element in helping to clarify our identity, purpose and key strategies, and is helping to guide our decisions for the future.

