

# RIVERSIDE/SAN GORGONIO

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

## MEETINGS

**Book Group**—Thursday, Dec. 3rd at 1:00pm at Stella Fife's—*Ice Bound* by Jerri Neilsen

**Christmas Program—Moreno Valley Chorale and Cookie Exchange** — Saturday, December 5th at 1:00pm at Habitat for Humanity

**Board Meeting**—Monday, Dec. 7th at 10:00am at Jo Turner's

**Book Group**—Thursday, Dec. 10th at 7:00pm at Erika Britton's—*In the Company of Cheerful Ladies* by Alexander McCall Smith

**Great Decisions**—Thursday, Dec. 17th at 7:00pm at Jo Turner's —*Sectarianism in the Middle East*.



## MORENO VALLEY CHORALE AND COOKIE EXCHANGE

Come hear members of the fantastic Moreno Valley Choral sing some of their beautiful Christmas music. It's a time to share good cheer with all. This is a combined meeting with Current Affairs. Bring Christmas cookies to share with all and take home a nice variety of cookies for yourself.

1:00 PM

Saturday, December 5th

Habitat for Humanity



## BOARD MEMBERS

President	Barbara Ryon
Administrative VP	Ruthann Milcoch
AAUW Funds VP	Cynthia Sprague
Secretary	Barbara Purvis
Treasurer	Ann Kasper
Communications	Taffy Geith
International Affairs	Carrie Garrett
Parliamentarian	Barbara Purvis

## INTEREST GROUPS & OTHERS

Book Group—1st Thursday at 1 pm	Stella Fife
Book Group—2nd Thursday at 1 pm	Lisa Newhall
Great Decisions—3rd Tuesday at 7 pm	Jo Turner
Healthy Hearts—3rd Friday at Noon	Marilyn Dunagan
Current Affairs—4th Monday at 1:00 pm	Marilyn Dunagan
Out & About—dates and times vary	Jo Turner
Bridge Group—4th Monday at 7:00 pm	Muriel Berger
UCR Coordinators	Carole Nagengast



# December 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>3 Book Group</b> 1:00pm Stella Fife's		<b>5</b> <u>MORENO VALLEY CHORALE</u> & <u>COOKIE EXCHANGE</u> 1:30pm Habitat
<b>6</b>  <b>Hannukah begins</b>	<b>7 Board Meeting</b> 10:00 am Jo Turner's	<b>8</b>  <b>Pam West</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10 Book Group</b> 7:00pm Erika Britton	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>Mary Humboldt</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>Ted Dyer</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>Marilyn Dunagan</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17 Great Decisions</b> 7:00pm Jo Turner's	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>  <b>Cynthia Sprague</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>26</b>  <b>Deanna Marker Morse</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			



## PRESIDENT

**Barbara Ryon**

Happy Holidays to all of you and hope you will be with family and friends during this season.

Board members Barb Ryon, Ruthann Mlcoch, Barbara Purvis, Carlease Chandler, Taffy Geith, Jo Turner Carole Nagengast and member Lori Webb joined two of our newest members—Charlotte Lucey and Leticia Rosales at the home of Erika Britton for a potluck supper and an evening of getting to know one another and an opportunity to share the mission of AAUW. Erika was a very gracious host and offered her home again for us to hold another gathering. Both Charlotte and Leticia are interested in many of our activities including joining one of the book groups and possibly The Great Decisions discussion group that meets at Jo Turner's home at 7pm. This was an idea that proved to be a great success and will be repeated after the start of 2016 (See page 7). If you were unable to join us for the evening we would welcome you. We would also encourage our members who are still working to consider joining us as we would love to see you and we know our usual meeting times during the day are not convenient for you.

We feel our Tech Trek program has grown tremendously and we now have the support of both Moreno Valley Unified and Riverside Unified School districts with funding help for our campers. Superintendent Dr. David Hansen, the speaker at the November general meeting, committed to providing help to our Branch this year. This makes our outreach program become a partnership between both local school districts and puts our Tech Trek program on a firm standing for the year. We also thank the Local Zonta Group for their gracious funding for one girl. It is confirmation that the Tech Trek program is a vital link and encourager for young girls to attend college and pursue careers in the STEM curriculum areas.

## COMING EVENTS

Jan. 13 **Dr. Paul Lyons**  
 Jan. 30th **SEIBC Meeting**  
 February 12th **Judge Sykes**  
 February 27 **Lunafest**  
 March 14th **Andy Melendrez and Woodie Rucker-Hughes**  
 April 15th-17th **AAUW CA Convention**  
 April 30th **SEIBC Meeting**  
 May 18th **Eunjung Cho on Immigration**  
 July 30th **SEIBC Leadership Day**

## LEGAL ADVOCACY CASES

Read about the cases that AAUW is supporting. Makes you proud. (p. 6)

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/strategic-case-support/laf-cases/>

## GREAT DECISIONS

This month we will be discussing a very timely topic, **Sectarianism in the Middle East**. Come join this discussion at 7:00pm on Thursday, December 17th at Jo Turner's.



## October MEETING MINUTES

**Board** — Click [HERE](#)

**General Meeting** — Click [HERE](#)

## OFFICE DEPOT

Discounts on **copying services** and other items are available for AAUW members at Office Depot. Use this link to print your own discount card now. [officediscounts.org/aauw/html](http://officediscounts.org/aauw/html)

**SERGIO DIAZ GENERAL MEETING**

**By Taffy Geith**

Barb Ryon, President of the Riverside Branch of AAUW, welcomed members and guests at 10:00 AM at their October 14 meeting at Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside.

Secretary, Barbara Purvis, introduced Riverside Chief of Police, Sergio Diaz, calling him a cultural asset and a noted community leader. Chief Diaz age 61, came to the US from Cuba at age seven—a political refugee. He spent 33 years in the LA Police Dept. as a Deputy Chief (2 stars) retiring from the downtown Police station in 2010 to come to Riverside.

The program, “Empowering Young Women,” is important to him because the new global trend in crime is human trafficking. (Barbara Purvis served on his committee.) Wherever there is crime, there's human trafficking because it is more profitable—the same product can be sold over and over again. Too, the consequence for the criminals involved in this, is less than for drug trafficking. The crime is controlled by gangs—local, and those in areas surrounding LA and Long Beach. Essentially, they're pimps exploiting young girls. These young girls have no place to go. Prostitution is not a victimless crime.

Opal Singleton, President and CEO of Million Kids, an invited guest (and a Riverside AAUW member), works closely with Chief Diaz on this important program. She goes to schools, churches, government officials, civic leaders and prominent individuals to provide training and education on this growing crime. She stated that pimps use technology (internet, cell phone), public places such as bus and train stations to look for and “size up” young people who are ready to divulge personal information that can be used to lure them into prostitution.

Chief Diaz says that the solution must be in the “affective domain.” Young girls are in a greater risk if they don't feel loved, protected, and safe. There is a trained police officer at every city high school whose job it is to investigate crimes and fights, and who is aware of how pimps pick their victims.

When it comes to school shootings, Chief Diaz cites changes in police tactics. The US Government Secret Service did research on school shootings and this has given Police guidelines in solving this crime. They look at the background of students—were they social or loners, good students or poor students and did the shooter leave clues in what they were planning? Adults at all the schools need to be trained to look for these clues, including teachers, administrators, and even janitors. Social media is both a curse and a help. In Riverside we have a small unit of criminal Intel investigators. They know how to get into “media” (Face book, etc.) and find and check the assessments, for example, if we get a call from out of state, or a report of a threat that has been divulged to them, or if they think something is abnormal, then they will investigate. Amazingly, within hours, the investigators will find the teen, then intervene and even prescribe the protocol on kids with guns. Problem: Today nothing is so crazy that you can't find an online group that finds that crazy idea is normal. “Nuts” (Chief Diaz' word) often leave a manifesto to justify their idea to go out and kill. The shooter in UC Santa Barbara last year cited “involuntary celibacy” to justify killing several students—even two who were his roommates.

Mental health has become a big issue for police. The State requires that police officers receive mental health training including training on developmental disabilities. The limitations on the police are that they can hold someone for evaluation for 72 hours—emergency treatment service. Chief Diaz said that this gives the Police freedom to be dangerous. Too, the Police can follow up on suspicious activity—this works, but none of these solutions are fool proof.

The Riverside Police Dept. has very positive programs and policies in place for intervention. The Riverside Police Foundation sets up a fund raising tool that supports youth programs. Last year they raised and spent \$100,000.00 with one of its goals being prevention. The Police Dept. has a Youth Court, OWE, “Opportunity with Education” for kids with developmental disabilities, severe physical handicaps and even deafness. At least one parent must attend each class. One example: judo class often helps straighten out behavior. There are cash grants for youth groups in churches and for others who want to organize volunteer groups. The “take-away,” Chief Diaz says is that intervention programs work for the child who feels powerless and lonely. His motto is: “Expectation, vision, structure and discipline”.

Amid much applause, President, Barb Ryon, thanked Chief Diaz for his interesting and provocative presentation and gifted him with one of our definitive AAUW mugs. He is an awesome leader of a very important institution and is able to enlist the expertise of Opal Singleton, and others (such as Barbara Purvis) because he cares so much about the youth of our city. As citizens and as an organization supportive of girls and women, we realize our good fortune in having a Chief of Police like Sergio Diaz.

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(Sergio Diaz General Meeting continued)

President, Barb Ryon, had a brief business meeting for AAUW members after the Chief and some guests departed. She mentioned issues facing AAUW members which will require our attention.

- 1.) The budget for 2015-2016 as presented by Barb Ryon was passed
- 2.) We have added San Geronio to our Branch name
- 3.) The Board recommended that we add Moreno Valley to our name since we have 6 Moreno Valley Tech Trek students and several Moreno Valley AAUW members. The membership concurred and Barbara Ryon will pursue it;
- 4.) A motion was made and passed for college students who are National and State AAUW members, to join the Riverside AAUW Branch for free.

## SERGIO DIAZ MEETING



Barb Ryon and Chief Sergio Diaz

Lori Webb  
And  
Ginger Martin



Lou and  
Muriel Berger



Chief Sergio Diaz and Opal Singleton

## PUBLIC POLICY

**By Carole Nagengast**

In October a new term for the U.S. Supreme Court began, but the stakes for women and girls seem familiar. This year, there will be a serious challenge to affirmative action and new threats to contraceptive access, among other things. In a year when the rights of women and girls are front and center, it is more important than ever to stay informed.

### **Fisher v. University of Texas Brings Affirmative Action Back**

If you follow Supreme Court discussions, you'll recognize *Fisher v. University of Texas* from 2012. *Fisher* first came before the court that year, but the court sent it back to the lower court for rehearing. During the term that just began, however, the Supreme Court will hear the case, its first major affirmative action case since 2003.

Under university policies, Texas high school seniors who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class are automatically admitted without any consideration of race or other factors. The 10% policy fills most of the spots in each entering class. For the relatively few spots that remain, Texas uses a holistic, race-conscious admissions policy.

Abigail Fisher, the plaintiff in *Fisher v. University of Texas*, is white. She applied to the University of Texas, and, because she was not in the top 10% of her Texas high school class, her application was evaluated under the race-conscious admissions policy. She was denied. Although Fisher went on to attend and graduate from a different school she filed suit against the University of Texas, challenging its use of race-conscious admissions.

Because the Supreme Court upheld affirmative action in its 2003 *Grutter v. Bollinger* decision, educational access advocates worry that the court's decision to hear *Fisher* suggests that at least some of the justices want to further limit the use of race-conscious admissions policies. The court will hear arguments in *Fisher v. University of Texas* in December.

### **Fallout from Hobby Lobby Continues**

In 2014's *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* decision, the Supreme Court ruled that closely held corporations cannot be required to cover contraception through their employee health insurance plans. Despite Justice Alito's assurance that the *Hobby Lobby* ruling would have limited reach, fallout from the decision could seriously threaten even more employees' access to preventative health care.

As part of the Affordable Care Act, the government created (and AAUW supported) an exemption to the contraceptive requirement for religious organizations and an accommodation for religiously affiliated nonprofits. Under the accommodation, religiously affiliated nonprofits simply fill out a form explaining their religious objections to contraception, and the government arranges for coverage of their employees' contraceptive care instead of the nonprofit. But a small number of religious nonprofits filed lawsuits objecting to this accommodation. They argued that even having to fill out the accommodation form is an impermissible infringement on their religious liberty because it triggers contraceptive coverage for the employees.

Several of these cases were filed in different states, and until recently, all the circuit courts to rule on such cases had held that the accommodation was fair. However, in September 2015 the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of one of the nonprofits, creating a circuit split and making it more likely that the Supreme Court will hear at least one of these cases. *Hobby Lobby*'s legacy could mean that even more employers will be able to restrict their employees' access to contraception.



**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

In February 2016, Southern California branches will have the opportunity to attend new leadership workshops in a streamlined, cost-effective and weekend blitz of leader training!

All California branches are encouraged to complete [the Survey](#) to advise us which workshop topics are most important to incoming and potential branch leaders. (These leadership workshops will also be provided at the AAUW CA Convention in San Mateo in April 2016.)

**Orange County/Riverside/San Diego:**

Sunday, February 21, 2016

2:30 – 6:00pm

Laguna Woods Village Center – Clubhouse #3

23822 Avenida Sevilla

Laguna Woods, CA

**Cost: \$20.00**

**BOOK GROUP—1:00 PM**

at Stella Fife's

**Ice Bound** by Jerri Neilsen is a story about a Doctor's incredible struggle for survival in the North Pole.

**GREAT DECISIONS — 2016**

The topics for 2016 are:

**Middle East Alliances  
The Future of Kurdistan  
The Koreans  
Climate Change**

**The Rise of ISIS  
Migration  
The United Nations  
Cuba and the U.S.**

**BOOK GROUP—7:00 PM**

AT Erika Britten's

**In the Company of Cheerful Ladies** by Alexander McCall Smith is about The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency.

Sign up at our December meeting or call Jo Turner. The sessions will begin in February and will be once a month. We are looking forward to having you be a part of the group. Cost is \$25 for the Study Book and your share of the video. Click here to read more about the topics:

[http://www.fpa.orgnewsindex.cfm?act=show\\_announcement&announcement\\_id=393](http://www.fpa.orgnewsindex.cfm?act=show_announcement&announcement_id=393)

**MARILYN DUNNAGAN'S GOOFY CAKE**

Deliciously served at her house at Current Affairs

Sift into bowl:

Add to dry

1 cup sugar

1 tablespoon vinegar

1 1/2 cups flour

1 teaspoon vanilla

1/4 cup cocoa

1/2 cup melted shortening or oil

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 cup cold water

1 teaspoon soda

Mix 3 minutes at median speed. Use a square glass (pyrex) pan lined with wax paper. Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

**CHRISTMAS, HANNAKAH,  
KWANZAA**

**AND TO ALL**

**FROM YOUR EDITOR**

# RIVERSIDE PIPELINE

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

## DOES SIGNING AN ONLINE PETITION REALLY MATTER?

By Jeanne Hirshfield, AAUW Palm Springs Public Policy Chair

“This year has taught me that advocacy on my computer does make a difference. I cannot get out to demonstrations or attend meetings but I can keep informed about those things that I care about. Besides AAUW, I am connected to a number of internet advocacy sites belonging to environmental organizations. Several dire environmental threats such as drilling for oil in Alaska and the Trans Continental Pipeline were stopped because people expressed their opposition to them, mostly online. I feel strongly about the environment and global warming. What do you feel strongly about? Find an organization with an advocacy site where you can express your support for things you care about. Within AAUW we need to continue to support those things our Public Policy advocates. We are still working hard for equal pay and a woman’s right to control her own body. On college campuses more attention is being paid to sexual assaults on women because of our studies and advocacy along with others. As a switch on an old saying, “Let your Fingers Do the Talking.”

I totally agree with Jeanne on the importance of advocacy and that’s why I keep urging members to become [Two Minute Activists](#) signing up and advocating for all AAUW issues. You will be notified by email every time there is an issue that you can weigh in on. It literally takes only two minutes of your time to get your voice heard in Washington or Sacramento.