



RIVERSIDE PIPELINE

FEBRUARY 2012

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

MEETINGS

February 2, Thursday, Book Group at 1:00pm at Stella's. *The River of Red Gold* by Nadia West

February 9, Thursday, Book Group at 7:00pm at Marilyn's. *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson .

February 13, Monday, Board Meeting at 10:00 AM at Jo's

February 15, Wednesday, General Meeting, Woodie Rucker-Hughes at 11:00 AM at Habitat for Humanity

February 15, Wednesday, Out & About at 12:15 at Culinary Arts Academy at 1155 Spruce.

February 17, Friday, Healthy Hearts at noon at Marilyn Dunagan's

February 27, Monday, Current Affairs at Marty's at 1:00 PM

February 27, Monday, Bridge Group at Muriel's at 7:00 PM

EDUCATION FUND MEETING



A General Meeting will be held on February 15th for the Education (EF) Fund. The meeting will start at 11 am with registration open by 10:30 am. Habitat for Humanity Riverside has again graciously allowed us to use their Community Room for our meeting. Habitat is located at 2180 Iowa Avenue, Riverside near the intersection of Spruce and Iowa. Parking is available in the Habitat's ReStore parking lot.

The speaker will be Waudier ("Woodie") Rucker-Hughes. Ms. Rucker-Hughes is the *Homeless/Foster/Group Education Liaison* in the Central Registration Center of the Riverside Unified School District (RUSD). She received her undergraduate degree from *D.C. Teachers* and her M.A. in Educational Administration from the *University of Redlands*. She previously taught History at John W. North High School and served in other capacities with RUSD as well as a stint as Executive Director of the Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc. Woodie is also actively involved in the community, and has been a member of a number of nonprofit organizations.

At our meeting on February 15th, you can be of assistance to one of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women. AAUW is providing more than \$3.7 million in funding for more than 240 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations in the 2011-12 academic year. Your contribution can help continue this great program.

Board Members

President	Barbara Purvis
Vice President	Barb Ryon
AAUW Funds VP	Carrie Garret
Membership VP	Jo Turner Co-Chair
Membership VP	Carlease Chandler Co-Chair
Secretary	Marilyn Puckett
Treasurer	Barb Ryon
Communications	Taffy Geith
Parliamentarian	Bessie Ridley

Interest groups & Others

Book Group—1st Thursday at 1 PM	Stella Fife
Book Group - 1st Thursday at 7 PM	Lisa Newhall
Bridge Group - 4th Saturday at 7 PM	Mary Lou Morales
Current Affairs - 4th Monday at 1: PM	Marilyn Dunagan
	Dorothy Andruss
Healthy Hearts - 3rd Friday at Noon	Bessie Ridley
Out & About - dates & times very	Jo Turner
International Affairs Chair	Barb Ryon
Public Policy Co-Chair	Ann Kasper
Tech Trek Coordinator	Lisa Newhall
UCR Coordinator	Adrienne Sims



February 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Book Group at 1:00 pm 	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Book Group At 7:00 pm	10	11
12	13 Board Meeting 10:00 am	14	15 Woodie RuckerHughes 11:00 am Out & About Culinary Arts 12:15 pm	16	17 Healthy Hearts-Noon	18
19	20 President's Day! 	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Current Affairs 1:00 At Marty's Bridge Group 7:00 at Muriel's	28	29			

PRESIDENT’S CORNER



By Barbara Purvis

Last month we conducted our Legal Advocacy meeting, and, hopefully, collected funds for that purpose. Our speaker was Katie Greene, an attorney, a nurse practitioner, and a community activist. She is also a new member of the Riverside Branch of AAUW. She did a great job and I thank her. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to combat sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. If you wish to donate to LAF, please send your check to our Treasurer, Barb Ryon.

This month, we are having our Education Fund meeting with the dynamic Woodie Rucker-Hughes as our speaker. She will be speaking about a problem we hear little about: the growing number of homeless school children. Bring your checkbooks, or if you cannot come, mail your checks for EF to Barb Ryon. Donations do not need to be large; just from many of us.

Just a note that the February Board meeting will be on the second Monday (February 13th) just this month due to a conflict with my work schedule. It will still be at 10 am at Jo’s. All members are welcome.

OUT AND ABOUT

We will be having our *Out and About* on February 15th at 12:15 pm or so (following the General Meeting) at the Riverside City College *Culinary Academy* located at 1155 Spruce Street, Riverside, California 92507. If you are attending, please let Jo know at 786-3966 by no later than February 13th so that the appropriate number of reservations can be made. Guests are welcome.



Beth Miller

**Save the Date
2012 State Convention**

April 13-15, 2012
Santa Clara Marriott Hotel
2700 Mission College Blvd
Santa Clara, CA

NEW MEMBERS



Recruit New Members

Nothing beats a great deal. As your membership co-chair, I urge you to bring friends, colleagues, or relatives to a branch meeting or event between January 1 and March 15, when they can join for half of the national dues rate. Their membership will expire June 30, 2012. Those who join can take advantage of the national discounted dues rate of \$24.50, making a total of \$57.50.



LAF MEETING — KATIE GREENE

By Taffy Geith

The Riverside Branch of AAUW gathered on Saturday, January 14 to collect funds and raise awareness for our Legal Advocacy Fund. The Legal Advocacy Fund provides case support for women in sex discrimination lawsuits. We met in the Community Room of Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Ave. at 11:30 AM.

President, Barbara Purvis, welcomed everyone, and briefly explained the basic purpose and our interest in the support of the Legal Advocacy Fund. She introduced our speaker, Katie Greene (a new AAUW Riverside Branch member), who has achieved an extraordinarily productive life both as a nurse practitioner, and as an attorney.

Katie Greene began her life journey as the 13th child in a family of 14 children in a very small town, Melville, Louisiana. Her parents, with only elementary educations, were poor, but, as she said, "rich in morals and principles," and were good at preparing children to go out into the world. When Katie was in seventh grade, her family moved to Houston, Texas, where she graduated high school in 1963 and started college at Texas Southern University. She said that she has worked all her life -- babysitting at age ten, waiting tables, picking cotton, washing dishes and cooking hamburgers --often for four dollars an hour.

She enlisted in the Air Force because she thought that was what her brother had done and she wanted to follow. She wanted to be an airline attendant in California, but to her disappointment was sent to Biloxi, Mississippi, where fifty percent of her squadron were cooks. Assigned to the Dining Room at the Keesler Air Force Base Hospital, she saw the opportunity to change her skill level, first to become an Air Force Medic, then to be assigned to the Obstetrics Ward, and finally to become an LVN. (Licensed Vocational Nurse)

After two and one-half years at Keesler Air Force Base, she was transferred to Wiesbaden, Germany, also to the Obstetrics section of the hospital. While there, she re-enlisted and stayed until transferring to March Air Base in Riverside as a Staff Sergeant. She had a very strong desire to be a registered nurse, and thus, left the Air Force after seven and one-half years so that she could attend the Riverside College Nursing Program. She got her AA Degree in Nursing in 1975. Within weeks of graduating, she began working for Riverside County as a Pediatric Nurse-Practitioner in Public Health Services Clinics from Corona to Blythe.

(Katie Greene continued)

During the 1980's, Katie had a variety of jobs and experiences: she finished her education at Chapman University with a Bachelor of Science; she got married, and went to Saudi Arabia to work for two years; she got divorced; she returned to the States in 1983.

Since she had always had great admiration for Senator Barbara Jordan of Texas, she decided to go to law school. She attended Citrus Belt Law School, passing the California Bar in 1993. She had remained in the Air Force Reserve, and consequently, during the Desert Storm War, she was sent back to Jeddah Air Force Base in Saudi Arabia and set up a hospital.

In 1993 she trained for Public Service in Riverside County and is now a Public Service Lawyer practicing Family Law. She calls this an emotional ride --divorce, child support, credit card troubles, and dealing with debt collectors, to name but a few of the problems families face. She helps people who cannot afford a lawyer.

At last, she retired from the Air force as a Major, and retired from Riverside County. However, she is not idle. She serves on three non-profit boards, advises people at the hypertension clinic at her church, speaks at functions for the City, County and State, and is active in the Retired Public Employees Association. She stated that she has the "spirit" to disagree with officials. When asked what drives her, she responded that she still has enthusiasm for life and believes that learning never ends. She closed with a quote from the poet, Robert Frost, -- she still has "promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep."

Those attending could only express their admiration for Katie as an accomplished and dedicated woman who saw challenges at every step along her journey, accepted the challenges and succeeded only to look for the next challenge to succeed again. She is an example that few will ever forget. Would that all women could have her marvelous attitude --never whining, nor seeking to be a victim, not being bitter, but only looking to be better at the choices/and or hurdles ahead.



Wal-Mart Class Action Suit Filed in Texas

Current and former female Wal-Mart employees continued their discrimination lawsuit against the company this week with the filing of an amended complaint in U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas. The case, *Odle, et al v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, represents a regional – Texas-only – effort to take on the retail giant after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June in *Wal-Mart v. Dukes* that female Wal-Mart employees could not band together in a national class-action lawsuit. The first regional complaint, *Dukes v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, was filed in California in October. The complaint in Texas alleges widespread denial of equal pay and access to management promotions for female employees.

AAUW was disappointed by the *Wal-Mart v. Dukes* ruling and had provided support to the lead plaintiffs last spring through the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund. In September, the AAUW board voted to disburse more funds to defray costs involved in creating smaller class-action lawsuits. AAUW will continue supporting the lawyers and plaintiffs as they seek justice for all



A woman who is convinced that she deserves to accept only the best, challenges herself to give the best. Then she is living phenomenally."

Maya Angelou

Riverside Pipeline

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LAF UPDATE

Women in the military are now more likely to be raped by fellow soldiers than they are to be killed in combat.

During the first week of January, lawyer Susan Burke filed an appeal for the LAF-supported case [Cioca v. Rumsfeld](#). The plaintiffs in the case are 28 current and former members of the military who allege that they were raped by co-workers and that the defense secretary's failure to act on the issue of sexual assault in the military amounts to a violation of their constitutional rights. On December 13, a U.S. district court judge [granted](#) the Department of Defense's motion to dismiss the case. Oral arguments will be held in the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the coming months.

Burke spoke to the LAF committee on January 6 to discuss the importance of the case. She believes that the institutional changes needed in the military are unlikely to be won in the courts, so she plans to keep the case in the legal system as long as possible to create a lot of [media attention](#) and hopes to inspire public pressure for legislation that can stipulate those necessary institutional changes.

Burke and several of the plaintiffs from the *Cioca* case are featured in [The Invisible War](#), a new documentary about sexual assault in the military that will premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah on January 20. The filmmakers are working with Burke to create a petition related to the issue that also will be released that day.

Members and guests are invited any time to all meetings!