



RIVERSIDE PIPELINE

MARCH 2012

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

MEETINGS

March 1, Thursday—Book Group at 1:00 PM
at Stella's — *remarkable creatures* by Tracy Chevalier.

March 1, Thursday—Book Group at 7:00 PM
at Marilyn's — *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese

March 5, Monday—Board Meeting at 10:00 AM
At Jo's

March 26, Monday—Current Affairs at 1:00
at the First Congregation Church, 3755
Lemon Street

March 26, Monday—Bridge Group at 7:00 PM
at Ted's

March 31, Saturday—SEIBC Meeting
Marylynn Yates at 9:30 at Habitat for
Humanity, 2180 Iowa Ave.

April 13-15th — State Convention at Santa
Clara Marriott Hotel

NO GENERAL MEETING

The General Meeting we had planned has been cancelled at the last minute so we won't be having a general meeting this month. Come to the SEIBC meeting on Saturday, March 31st instead.

WOMEN GAIN IN EDUCATION

Census Bureau [data](#) released recently [revealed](#) that the number of women with bachelor's degrees has increased by 37 percent over the last decade. Of the 61 million people older than 25 who hold bachelor's degrees, 30 million were men and 31 million were women.

Also disclosed was the fact that, for the first time ever more than 30 percent of adults in the United States have at least a bachelor's degree. In 1998, not even 25 percent of a comparable population held bachelor's degrees.

AAUW [advocates](#) increased support for and access to higher education for women and other disadvantaged populations.

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
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 vary	Jo Turner
International Affairs Chair	Barb Ryon
Public Policy Chair	Ann Kasper

March 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Book Group—1:00 Book Group 7:00 pm	2	3
4	5 Board Meeting 10:00 am	6	7	8	9	10
11 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME  BEGINS	12	13	14	15	16 Healthy Hearts—noon	17 
18	19	20 	21	22	23	24
25	26 Current Affairs 1:00 1st Congregation Church Bridge Group at 7:00 PM	27	28	29	30	31 SEIBC Meeting at 9:30 AM at Habitat for Humanity

PRESIDENT'S CORNER*By Barbara Purvis*

The time is near to start considering who should lead the Riverside Branch in the upcoming year. A Nominating Committee, headed by Jo Turner, has been elected by the Board of Directors to start the search. We have a number of new members who may wish to serve as a "co-" with a more experienced member; and we have some members who have been dormant for a couple of years who may wish to blossom again. If you are willing to serve, please let Jo know. It would be great if we could get a mix of the newer members with some more seasoned members who have been committed to AAUW and its mission and vision for a number of years. And be aware, if you don't step forward, Jo will come searching for you.

During February we had a great, but disturbing, presentation by Woodie Rucker-Hughes on the growing population of homeless students in the Riverside Unified School District. Her presentation was our annual "Education Fund" program where we hope our members will contribute towards continuing AAUW's history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women. 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.

If you were at the meeting and did not have your checkbook with you (which was my case), or if you could not attend and wish to donate to a great cause, please send your check (in any amount) to our Treasurer, Barb Ryon. The check should be made payable to AAUW Funds with the memo line designating "Education Fund". Thanks for your help. My check is in the mail.

CURRENT AFFAIRS

March 26, 1:00 P.M. First Congregation Church (3755 Lemon Street), parking in the rear of church, or pay for parking in nearby lots and on the street or carpool. Rev. Jane Quandt will speak and lead discussion on "Women in the Ministry." Please RSVP so we know how many table settings to prepare. There is a wheelchair ramp by rear parking lot if front stairs are difficult. It will be held in the Madonna Room, near the recently repaired Madonna Window.

SEIBC MEETING

We are again fortunate to have an outstanding speaker, Dr. Marylynn Yates. She is the newly appointed Dean of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. Her research focuses on the transmission of human pathogenic microorganisms, particularly in water and waste water. She is a recipient of UCR's Distinguished Teaching Award (2001-02) and was named Distinguished Teaching Professor (2006).



After Dr. Yates speaks, the members will discuss activities in our branches and also fund raising ideas that have been successful. Do come and participate

Saturday, March 31st at 9:30 AM
Habitat for Humanity on Iowa
Near the corner of Spruce,
2180 Iowa Ave.

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Anne Frank



WOODIE RUCKER-HUGHES

By Taffy Geith

On Wednesday, February 15, the Riverside Branch of AAUW gathered at 10:30 AM at the Habitat for Humanity, 2180 Iowa Avenue, for the annual meeting that emphasizes our Education Fund.

Barbara Purvis, President, welcomed all present and gave special mention to distinguished guests, Chuck Beatty, RUSD Board Member and President Beverly Romano, of the Riverside Assistance League who was there with several members of her group.

Barbara gently reminded everyone that the AAUW Education Fund is one of the world's largest sources for funds for women in graduate school, providing 3.7 million dollars for fellowships and grants to a broad community of women in higher education.

Our speaker, Waudier "Woodie" Rucker-Hughes, was introduced by Barbara as the present Homeless/Foster/Group Education Liaison for the Riverside Unified School District. Woodie has had this position since 2003. Woodie has an interesting and busy history. She was born in Washington DC., the third oldest of eight children, continued in her education, getting her Master of Arts from Redlands University. She taught history at North High School and later became the Assistant Principal and Dean of Students. She's a member of numerous community organizations, was a YWCA Woman of Achievement, and co-founder and chairperson of the African American Summit.

Her topic this day was "Educating the Homeless Children," a subject that she said was dear to her for the last nine years. She calls these children the "hidden group," because they used to be "invisible" --but that has changed. These children are not at the river bottom, but rather in "half-way" houses and other transitional homes. They don't have permanent homes and often are part of single parent families. They find a way to survive, but need someone and want the opportunity to achieve. Her job is to find them, so they can have stability, and someone to care if they are in school.

There are many causes of homelessness for children, but chief among them are lack of affordable housing and poverty due to the poor economy and many home foreclosures.

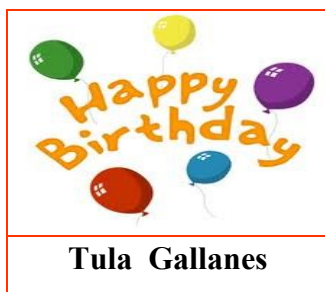
Care for the homeless has changed in Riverside. At one time, Riverside would open the Armory for shelter for the homeless when it rained. Later, Riverside got a grant of \$100,000 once every year (now reduced) and the City put all the homeless in one establishment. Then, families were separated out and kept at a Park Avenue establishment for 60 to 90 days. The object was to get them stabilized. Now Riverside has three transitional living homes --one at March Air Force Base, and two in Riverside sponsored by Lutheran Social Services. There are Safe Houses for victims of domestic violence and runaways. Since shelters are often full, families live with other families, in their cars, or even motels.

In 1987 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was passed and was re-authorized in 2002. It stresses school stability, school access, academic success and child centered best interest decisions for Homeless Children. Woodie stated that every school district must have a Liaison Person for Homeless Children. The Liaison Person must identify the homeless and ensure that students get enrolled and have a full opportunity to succeed. Also, the Liaison must make referrals for health and mental health services, including Head Start and Pre-School. Often transportation to and from schools must be provided (bus passes) even though it can be an expense. Woodie shared many heart-breaking stories of homeless children and the difficulties that they face, however, she shared an instance or two where she had to use "tough love" to carry out her mission. Riverside Unified School District has an enrollment of 42,000 students and of those, 2,930 children under 18 years of age were homeless in June, 2006, but that number had decreased to 2,589 the next time it was tabulated. This is to show that the numbers fluctuate.

Woodie closed her presentation with a video clip of a CBS show on Homeless Children in America. It profiled several children and gave graphic illustrations of living conditions and of the feelings of sadness and sometimes anger of these children and the problems that they are facing bravely, if not always stoically.

As previously noted, President Beverly Romano and members from the Assistance League were present and Woodie acknowledged the wonderful job they do with their "Operation School Bell" Program. They provide clothes for nearly 2,000 homeless children, and their Snack Attack Program provides bags of food (600 per week) for homeless children to take home for the weekend or over a holiday. They have given sixty students \$100.00 to give "Bear Pals" to homeless children who are ill or injured and they give some help to children coming out of Foster Care. The Assistance League is composed of all volunteers and work to assist Woodie. They are a genuine force for good in the community of homeless children.

This report is necessarily abbreviated and inadequate in its attempt to explain the distinct nature and requirement of Woodie's job as Liaison for Homeless/Foster Education. Woodie gave a thorough and detailed account of the program at RUSD for which she is responsible in a printed hand-out which she gave to all those at the meeting. Her presentation was an informative, enlightening and realistic description of a very grave problem in our society. Everyone present was grateful to have an advocate for homeless children so filled with compassion for them and their right to an education.



**Don't Forget
CONVENTION
APRIL 13-15**

NEW MEMBERS

Paste these names into your directory and be sure to give these new members a hearty welcome.

Gladys Walker	683-2513
1260 San Cristobal Dr.	walker2513@earthlink.net
Riverside, CA 92506-3623	
BA Sociology	Univ. of CA, Riverside
MA Ed. Leadership	CSUSB
Lorraine (Lori) Webb	242-2875
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Moreno Valley, CA 92553-3940	
BA Sociology/Soc.Sci.	CSUSB

Riverside Pipeline

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LAF Case Featured in Award-Winning Film *The Invisible War*

The Department of Defense [estimates](#) that about 19,000 military service women and men were sexually assaulted and raped in 2010. The widespread problem of sexual assault in the military is the subject of the new documentary [The Invisible War](#). The documentary [features](#) several of the plaintiffs from the [LAF-supported lawsuit](#) *Cioca v. Rumsfeld*, including the lead plaintiff, Kori Cioca. It also features her attorney, [Susan Burke](#). The documentary premiered at the [Sundance Film Festival](#) in January and earned [the Audience Award](#).

To try to create a legislative fix to the problem of rape in the military, in November Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) introduced the [Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention Act](#) (STOP Act) to address structural changes needed in the military. In an upcoming Program in a Box, AAUW members will learn what they can do to address the issue of military sexual assault. In the meantime, please [contact your representative](#) about the [Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention Act](#), [donate to AAUW](#) to help offset the legal costs of the lawsuit, and visit [The Invisible War's website](#) to learn about other actions you can take. And be sure to read the AAUW Dialog article, [Making Military Sexual Assault Visible](#).

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Stupidity in a woman is unfeminine. Friedrich Nietzsche

Members and guests are invited any time to all meetings!