

LA PALMA-CERRITOS HISTORY: 1972-2012
(Information from Newsletters, Directories and Member Input)
Compiled by Tobi Balma and Edited by Celia Spitzer

INTRODUCTION

This history is dedicated to the 34 women who got together in 1972 to form the La Palma-Cerritos Branch which was chartered in 1972. Those women really didn't know what AAUW was, but knew they wanted to be part of an organization of other like-minded university women graduates who were dedicated to education and equity for women and girls. Most of the women had backgrounds in the field of education, but were currently homemakers with young children. The branch was originally called the La Palma Branch because, at that time, branches could only be named for one city. Most of the members lived in La Palma.

There have been 28 Presidents over the course of 40 years. Funds have been raised for two Research and Project Endowments, and more than fifty members have had the honor of being named AAUW Funds Named Honorees.

Not only have branch members had the opportunity to gain further education, lifelong friendships and leadership skills, but they have had the privilege of giving back to the local community. Some members learned political activism, participated in marches, and ran for and won political offices.

Some of the community programs have been: Candidates Forums, Math Science Conferences, Read Aloud programs, a market survey, Tech Trek, Woman-to-Woman Summit, Reproductive Choice Forum, toiletry gift bags for the Union Rescue Mission clients, adopting a local family, and partnering with local clubs for programs. The longest running program has been the 19 year Cerritos College Scholarship and Recognition Program for women students transferring to a four year college or university.

The branch has a long history of service to Su Casa-Ending Domestic Violence (formerly named Su Casa Family Crisis and Support Center). Branch members have served as board members, teachers, shoppers and, at times, transported women to the shelter. Holiday gifts to Su Casa became a tradition.

Fundraising has included: Craft Faires, luncheons, dinners, fashion shows, art auctions, silent fund raisers, raffles, theater parties, cookbooks, grocery scrip, TV tapings, garage sales, branch shirts, gold party, jewelry party, white elephant/re-gifting auctions....to name a few.

Little did our foremothers know that what they started 40 years ago would grow into a dynamic organization that is well respected in our community. For this, we are grateful.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Melanie Adler	Frieda Friedman	Nancy Kawamura	Gloria Scanlon
Tobi Balma	Tucky Fukunaga	Kathy Klingsmith	Eileen Seigel
Sarah Borden	Sue Gates	Gloria Manule	Corliss Serber
Sue Butler	Virginia Grande	Carol Marsh	Dale Snyder
Joyce Davis	Donna Hammersley	Jo Melton	Eileen Weaver
Judy Emerson	Bari Howard	Phyllis Meyer	Jean Williams
Carolyn Erickson	Jan Huber	Barbara Morgan	Diane Zimmerman
Clora Farley	Fay Johnson	Betty Orcino	
Cindy Flann	Ann Joynt	Camilla Rowe	

THE FIRST DECADE

1972-74 Pres. Judy Emerson: During these years we conducted a supermarket survey to determine which market had the best prices. Markets surveyed included Gemco, Plowboys, Alpha Beta and Safeway. The results appeared in the Press Telegram.

Programs 1972-73: Don Jenkins from Rio Hondo College; Assemblyman Ken Dory; Interior Decorating; Financial Issues; Ecology; Education

Programs 1973-74: Advertising in Relation to the Consumer; Women's Changing Role in Society; Consumer Affairs in Orange County; Career Opportunities for Women; Initiating Children into the Lie--An Anthropological Look at American Education; Volunteerism

1974-75 Pres. Jeanne Hawkins: This is the year we had a Status of Women Study Group: "Women of Different Cultures." (We met at the homes of members.) We invited speakers to each meeting. The topics were: Japanese Women (Film: Modern Japanese Women); Indian Women (Slides of India); Jewish Women; Mexican Women; Scandinavian Women; Black Women; and an International Potluck for Fellowship (and invited all of the previous speakers). The branch also participated for the first time in the City of La Palma Parade.

Programs: How to Provide Dynamic Learning Experiences; Common Cause--The Non-Partisan Citizens' Lobby on November Ballot Issues; I Am Not a Dumb Broad; Current Trends in Interior Decorating; Economic Interdependence of Nations; The Role of Educational TV in the Communications Media; Music From Different Countries and Cultures: A sharing of our own musically talented members; History of Oriental Music: A demonstration of the Shamisen and the Koto

1975-76: Pres. Jeanne Hawkins: This is the year we had a Cheese Sampling; Fellowship Luncheon, and a Wine Tasting Party. We had Study Groups: "Economic Facts of Life: Living with Less;" Mini-Courses: Macramé, Bartending, Self Defense, Visual Poise, Automotive Care, Appliance Maintenance, and First Aid. We continued with The Status of Women Study Group: Indonesia, France, China, Pregnant Minors, American Indian Women, and Problems of Women in Our Society. We had a Needlework Group, Music Group, Bridge, Theater and Gourmet. In 1976 a group of members wrote, printed and distributed a book on Japan. The Japan book was used as a fund raiser for the Educational Foundation. Japan books were given to school libraries and individual teachers.

Programs: Readers Theater Presentation; Women: Myths and Graffiti; Health Quackery; The Art of Frugal Living; Does Your Handwriting Reveal the Real You? World Pluralism: The Human Encounter; Why Man Creates; Musical and Art Sharing; Early Childhood Education

1976-77 Pres. Gloria Scanlon: Study Topics were: "Economic Facts of Life," (and had meetings on Financial Planning for Women; Fibers and Holiday Decorations; Economic Facts of Death). Mini Courses continued (Antiques, Transcendental Meditation; Alcoholism--The Woman Alcoholic and the Child Alcoholic; Earthquakes); "Society and the Individual," "World Pluralism," "21st Century." Continued Action Programs: Status of Women (Women in the Military, India, Philippines, South American Immigration, Egypt, and Athletics); Committee on Women. We had Community Area Representatives, Cultural Interests, Education, and International Relations. We had Interest Groups: Theater, Bridge, Music, Gourmet, Needlework, Cypress College and Cerritos College. We had a Vegas Night.

Programs: Self Assertion Training; Current Status of Legal Rights of Women in California; Creative Use of Sheets; Taster's Choice Party; How to Help Your Child Succeed in School; Male Menopause and its Effects on the Family; Panel Presentation on "Priorities in Education;" Musical and Art Sharing by the Members; Dealing With Stress.

1977-79 Pres. Sue Butler: Study Topics changed. At that time AAUW was doing two years at a time of "Study Topics" until members wanted action rather than studying. This is the year we added a President's Fund, and added Golf as an Interest Group. Study Topics were "Women as Agents of Change:" (Effective Group Process; Decision Making; Communications; Developing an Action Plan; Power Inventory; Risk Taking; Facing the Change Effort; Management); "Politics of Food;" and "Re-Evaluating the Goals of Education." EF did another Vegas Night and had a Craft Faire with outside artisans participating. The Mini Courses continued. Gourmet had a Smorgasbord Buffet. Sue Butler was chosen to chair the AAUW CA Division Convention.

Programs 1977-78: "How To Faire;" Domestic Violence and Child Abuse; Taster's Choice; "Let's Move" workshop; Assertion; EF Luncheon at the Golden Sails Restaurant; Southern CA Gas Company program on Liquefied Natural Gas.

Programs 1978-79: Carol Bovitz, AAUW California State Division Representative; Cake Decorating; and Green Beret and poet Bruce Sievers.

1979-80 Pres. Jane Sanders (summer of 79)/CELIA SPITZER: Jane had the recorded shortest presidency, moving to Encinitas over the summer. Celia Spitzer stepped into the position. Craft Faire '79 raised over \$2,600 for the Educational Foundation Program. Passing of the ERA and having California become its own AAUW Region were topics of concern. The branch held a Community TV Coalition Workshop, concerning the effects of TV watching on children. Membership was around 90.

Programs: Musical instrument demonstration; Pauline Larwood; AAUW CSD Legislative Chair; Exercise Nutrition and Fitness; "Burn-Out" (at a luncheon); Reach to Recovery (American Cancer Society)

1980-82 Pres. Carolyn Pall: Swap Meet and Eat EF Event; in November 1981 the branch co-sponsored its first of three Math/Science Career Conferences with the ABC School District (attended by over 2,000 students and parents over the three years). (The other two conferences were held in 1983 and 1986.)

THE SECOND DECADE

1982-83 Pres. Marilyn Oba: Swap Meet and Eat raised \$1,300 for EF. We had Bridge, Ex Libris, Needlework, Lunch Bunch, International Relations, Status of Women; a Legislation Chair; and Consumer Corner "Money Talks" with Joan Stiehl -- one meeting was on Comparison Shopping; our first cookbook was produced; and participated in the Leisure Faire at the Cerritos Mall. Two members attended the National AAUW Convention in San Francisco where LAF was made a permanent entity of AAUW.

Programs: Taster's Choice (December Holiday Party); A Tribute to National Women's History Week; Financial Planning; 10th Anniversary Installation Celebration at the Governor's Restaurant in Long Beach; Creative Workshop (Ikebana Japanese Flower Arranging and Mukimono Japanese food garnishes); EF Luncheon included a raffle where we sold 675 raffle tickets with a net profit of \$1,217

1983-84 Pres. Carlyn Hemminger: We held our First Art Auction ; the Music Group continued; member dues increased to \$15; we sold Entertainment Books.

Programs: "All You Wanted to Know about the FDA and Didn't Know Who to Ask;" November 1983 Bi-Annual Math/Science Conference in co-sponsorship with the ABC School District; "A Global Perspective--the Need for Advocacy Networks;" Convention Fund Luncheon; Holiday Party "Taster's Choice;" "Women and the Olympics"

1984-85 Pres. Betty Hyatt: Met at Tetzlaff Junior High (now called Middle School); the branch received proclamations from Cerritos, Cypress and La Palma honoring the branch and commemorating AAUW and Women's History week; EF Fundraiser at Cerritos City Park East: "Royal Gourmet Dinner" (\$7.50 per person, steak with crab stick, two salads, roll with butter, dessert and a beverage).

Programs: First Candidates Forum; Ballot Initiatives; Physical Fitness; "Dollars & Sense: Financial Planning For Women;" "Women's Issues: Comparable Worth;" "Complex Issues Which Confront Our Public School System;" "The Refugees of Orange County: Problems and Programs"

1985-86 Pres. Marjorie Lorant: Interest Group called Sleuthhounds read mystery books; Readers Theater; Sandbox Set (members with small children); MAX (Men's Auxiliary -- Marty Flax, Chair); Friendship Circle; 2nd Art Auction; Consumer Corner and Ex Libris continue; MAX had a night at Crackers and a family picnic.

Programs: "The Pot of Gold: AAUW" (Member Interaction); Managing Stress; Time Management; Consumer Issues; Focus on Members; Childhood Stress; Holiday Crafts & Foods (Five members demonstrated crafts, including making chocolate); Consumer Fraud; Comparable Worth: The Employment Issue of the 80's; Focus on Members: "Let's Make a Friend;" and the Readers Theater performed a Melodrama

1986-87 Pres. Joan Stiehl Interest Groups: Bridge; Gourmet, Lunch Bunch, Handcrafters, Readers Theater, Sandbox Set, Sleuthhounds, Ex Libris, MAX, Consumer Corner (Financial Fitness); Classical Music Ensemble; EF Event: Vegas Night; Fundraiser for Convention Fund: going to Crackers; Candidates Forum; MAX Annual Picnic (proceeds went to EF); several members were on the Su Casa Board of Directors. Tobi Balma attended the historic National AAUW Convention where gender is eliminated as a membership criterion.

Programs: Membership Meeting; Ballot Issues; Sharing Our Talents (Members); Holiday Party; Taylor Hartman: Personal Relationships; Women's Health Issues (Osteoporosis); Illiteracy; Environmental Issues, "World at Our Doorstep" (5 member panel about living outside of the U.S.)

1987-88 Pres. Sue Solomon: 1st EF Non-Event: Phantom of the Opera; 15th Anniversary Celebration at the Cerritos Library; New Interest Group: Great Books (Classics); MAX Picnic; over twenty members give varying amounts of time to help the Su Casa Family Crisis and Support Center (shelter and other projects.)

Programs: Domestic Abuse; Is Your Neighborhood at Risk?; Holiday Party; Drawing on the Right Side of The Brain; The Educational Foundation; Women in Art; An Evening of Poetry; Gangs

1988-89 Pres. Cheryl Bodger: EF Fundraiser Theater Party at the Long Beach Playhouse; two Candidates Forums; prior EF Phantom of the Opera Fundraiser receives National AAUW recognition and becomes an EF Marketplace Fundraiser; Su Casa is our Community Action Project; EF Art Auction Fundraiser (with the help of MAX) at the La Palma Community Center raises almost \$5,000; Luncheon Fundraiser for Convention Fund : “The Hat Lady” (history of hats); participated in ABC School District Read Aloud Program; Gloria Scanlon is elected to the Centralia School Board; opened the La Palma-Cerritos Named Research and Projects Unit with \$22,035; donated a book about Susan B. Anthony to the Cerritos Library for Women’s History Month. Tobi Balma, Sue Solomon and Celia Spitzer attended the National AAUW Convention in Washington, DC.

Programs: Ballot Propositions; Genetic Manipulation; Holiday Party; Aging; CA AAUW President Eileen Givens; “Entering A New Decade for Women: a historical and political perspective (at the Imperial Mandarin Palace Restaurant); “The Ethnic Community in CA;” “An Evening of Culture” (members shared their talents at a member’s home); “Seeing is Believing: the meanings people attach to photographs”

1989-90 Pres. Tobi Balma: AAUW picks “Choices For Tomorrow’s Women” as its theme; 1st Membership Brunch; AAUW CA starts Campaign For Choice; “Promoting Individual Liberties;” Secret Pals Interest Group forms, is called “Kindred Spirits,” then changes to “Las Comadres;” EF sells grocery scrip (\$1,000+) as well as holds a non-event “Fabulous Fantasy” (\$1,700); MAX holds a Beach Party and a Square Dance; eight members sell a lot of Newsletter ads to cover its printing and mailing costs; the Bridge group goes to “Bridge Camp;” Garage Sale to balance the budget raises \$1,194; five members attend a 60,000+ Rally called Mobilize for Women’s Lives; Membership Tea; proclamations from several cities were presented to the branch for AAUW week; Community Forum on Reproductive Choice; membership soars past 90 (with 20+ new members); \$2,000 is donated to our EF Named Unit which is then converted to the La Palma-Cerritos Branch Endowment; branch members participated in the ABC School District Read Aloud Program; 132 Entertainment Books were sold; branch dues increased by \$4 to \$17.

Programs: “Friendship in the ‘90s and What It Means to Women;” Chemical Killers;” “Reproductive Rights: What are they?” (also showed the film “Abortion for Survival”); Holiday Party; Luncheon Meeting: “Viva La Difference: why men and women act differently;” “The Sandwich Generation;” “The Legal Advocacy Fund;” “The Current Crisis in China;” “Once Upon A Time” (Elaine Jacobs, storyteller)

1990-91 Pres. Jackie Shahzadi: The new AAUW logo goes on our Newsletter; Wine & Cheese Tasting Membership Event; EF Scrip sales continue, as do Entertainment Books for Convention Fund; a Networking List begins to share talents and skills; Games Night Interest Group; 3rd Annual Camping Trip; a Newcomers’ Interest Group was started; MAX continues activities; member Sharon Kuroyama is honored as teacher of the year for 1990 by the CA Council of Adult Educators, South Coast Section and also named teacher of the year of the Norwalk-La Mirada School District; EF Art Auction at the La Palma Park Community Center (\$1,704); Math-Science Conference at Cerritos College (a collaboration of Cerritos College and our Branch); AAUW releases its “Short Changing Girls, Short Changing America” report; branch members participate at Juarez Elementary School’s Read Aloud Day; students from Coastline R.O.P. Word Processing classes typed the Newsletters for this year. Tobi Balma and Jackie Shahzadi attend the National AAUW Convention in Portland. Our Research and Projects Endowment was completed in 1991.

Programs: Candidates Forum; Aging Gracefully; Holiday Party; Su Casa: Focus on Volunteers; luncheon at the Cerritos Sheraton: "How to Make 1991 The Best Year of Your Life;" The Impact of Parental Consent/Notification Laws; Pot Luck Dinner; "Dress For Success" presented by Jane Haxton from Nordstrom

1991-92 Pres. Jackie Shahzadi: The Educational Foundation Program changes its name to Educational Foundation; AAUW opposes the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court; EF Grocery Scrip continues. We begin corresponding with the Chaco Argentina Federation Branch in preparation for the 1992 IFUW conference at Stanford; Tobi Balma is elected to be Chair of AAUW Los Angeles County Interbranch Council; Celia Spitzer is selected to continue as a member of the CA AAUW Public Policy Committee; MAX holds another beach party; the Newcomers' Interest Group continues; Red Lion Hotel Gift Certificates for a free weekend were given to new members and to the recruiting member; EF holds another Non-Event—Ms. Equality is in terrible danger and "ransom" is being sought; Membership Brunch; Retreat takes place at the Cerritos Library; May/June Newsletter format changes; Annual MAX Picnic in the Park .

Programs: International Potluck; Gender Equity in Education; "The Legal Advocacy Fund: A Key Player in the Fight for Equity;" Holiday Party; Diversity; Educational Foundation recipient Sarah Adams; luncheon for Women's History Month: Cerritos College Generic Improvisational Peep Show; "Reducing Waste to Save Our Planet;" "Our Rights and Nothing Less: Protecting Every Woman's Right to Control Her Own Body;" Installation at The Elephant Bar with entertainment by Barbara Sinclair, a singer/songwriter.

THE THIRD DECADE

1992-93 Pres. Joan Pylman: Dues are now \$55; Candidates Forum; Membership Theme: Each one bring one; Dine Out Books continue for Convention Fund; Interest Groups: Las Comadres, Readers Theater, Ex Libris, Gourmet, and Games Night; another camp-out; also large Voter Registration Drive registered nearly 200 voters and followed up with those who wanted information on Pro-Choice Candidates; Grocery Scrip sales for EF sales reached \$2,000. Membership is about 80.

Programs: Potluck; Analysis of November Ballot Issues; Crafts Night (Stamping, Tole Painting, T-shirt Appliqué, and Earring design)

1993-94 Pres. Joan Pylman: Candidates Forum; Membership Country Style Cookout; member Carolyn Pall was nominated to receive "The First Lady of CA Volunteer Award;" Interest Groups: Ex Libris, Las Comadres, and Gourmet

Programs: Ballot Issues: An evening of Information and Education

1994-95. Pres. Dorothy Edwards: Began the year with our first retreat at Casa de Maria in Santa Barbara. We became a "Seven Star Branch." We began the Scholarship Fund for the Cerritos College Awards Program for Outstanding Women Students and gave books to local high schools and public libraries.

1995-96 Pres. Linda Scott: Branch members attended CA State Convention; we mentored high school students.

1996-98 Pres. Kris Morlock: We mentored re-entry women at Cerritos College; became a "Five Star Branch;" engaged in Voter Education Programs and mailed out 8000 Voter Guides. Members attended TV tapings and held a Garage Sale to raise money for the General Fund, Scholarships and the Educational Foundation. We held retreats in Las Vegas and in Santa Barbara.

1998-2000 Pres. Delores Munro: Branch interest groups continued. Money was raised for local scholarships at a local Dim Sum restaurant and with a Best Recipe Event. Our Annual Cerritos College Women Students Awards Program continued. Celia Spitzer is elected to the ABC School Board. The speaker at our annual Funds luncheon was a young woman working in the under-represented area of construction. Jackie Shahzadi attended the IFUW Conference in Graz, Austria. The branch retreat was held in Oceanside at the San Luis Rey Mission.

Programs: Motivational Speaking; Tech Trek student recipient from Carmenita Middle School

2000-02 Pres. Fran DeFrance: Events and programs included retreats, fund-raisers for local and EF scholarships, and LAF; celebrated our Annual EF Foundation Tea; and our Local Scholarship Brunch at Cerritos College where several state and local legislators gave the students honors along with our honors and scholarships. We also had an International Potluck; held a Candidates Forum; had programs on Women's Health, Coping With Stress, Parenting Education, and "Grow Young and Slim." We also began our branch website.

We achieved Five Star Status (2001) based on: membership growth (10%); EF and LAF contributions; completing Public Policy requirements; and completing the social justice and community action stars with our Woman-to-Woman Summit (a community dialogue on domestic violence) and our Recognition of and Scholarships for Cerritos College Transferring Women.

Jackie Shahzadi became a member of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund bringing into the focus of our branch its small grants projects in underdeveloped countries to benefit women and children.

2002-04 Pres. Sondra Cohen: Initiated e-mail newsletter, edited by Harriet Palk; purchased Women's Pins to raise funds for LAF; Candidates Forum; opened the Gloria Scanlon Research and Projects Grant #1891 with a seminar and a tour of the Huntington Gardens as a fundraiser; raised money to sponsor a Tech Trek student; sold Entertainment Books; Interest Groups: Cover-To-Cover, Readers Theater, and Gourmet; several members became EF Century Club members; at the end of Feb. 2003 we had 60 members.

Programs 2002-03: Panel Presentation on Title IX; Su Casa; 30 Year Branch History; "AAUW's STAR Program;" three meetings focusing on members: "How to use Saris," a belly dancing performance and Carol Marsh's Choral Group.

Programs 2003-04: "The Christmas Star;" "International Safe Schools Within Safe Community Settings;" EF Luncheon; "Chiropractic, Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine;" EF Fellow Vivian Price's documentary film on the involvement of women in the building of the Century Freeway; Iran Revisited

2004-06 Thea Siegel: Planning retreats were held at La Casa de Maria in Santa Barbara. Dinner was provided at board and branch meetings. We participated in Project RISE with the ABC School District and sponsored Tech Trek students. Fund raising included theatre parties for EF as well as Century and Second Century Club, and "StylN Auctions" for local scholarships. The profits from branch shirts designed by Joan Flax were used to support Tech Trek. Regular interest groups continued and new interest groups began (movie night, games night, bridge, Mah Jongg and a walking club). Marilyn Forsstrom put our newsletter on a website. We also held two Candidates Forums, decorated a display case at Cerritos College for Women's History Month and held our 12th & 13th Annual Cerritos College Outstanding Women Students Awards & Recognition Ceremonies. The branch participated in the Cerritos 50th Anniversary and La Palma Days Parades. Two members attended the CA AAUW Convention in San Jose.

Programs 2004-05: "Committing Acts of Community;" Musical Evening (choral group and "Women at Play": piano/violin member trio); Crafts Night; Kelly Hayes-Raitt shared her compelling photos and vivid stories that humanize Iraq today; EF Brunch speaker: EF Grant recipient who spoke about twins; Whittier Union High School Pregnant Minor Program Panel of Teenage Mothers; Film: "Motherhood by Choice not Chance"

Programs 2005-06: Memory Loss & Aging; aerobics; E. F. Brunch: Hong-An R. Truong, EF Career Development Grant Recipient, UC Irvine Arts displayed her photographic artwork and described how it was created in a "search for her own history;" Red Hats; Advance Directives

2006-08 Pres. Saurabh Deedwania: Saurabh attended the local CA AAUW State Convention and brought back ideas which she shared with the branch. During her term desserts were served at branch meetings rather than dinners. AAUW decided to be contemporary and began only using its initials rather than the words. Networking among members was encouraged as well as ethnic diversity. Some events were: Pechanga Casino fundraising trips for Local Scholarships; Candidates Forums; Local Scholarship Rummage Sale; Voter Education Forum; 14th and 15th Cerritos College Awards Recognition Ceremonies; theater fundraisers for EF/LAF; additional interest groups: Games Night, Scrabble, and financial education. Many members continued their dedication to Su Casa by being "shoppers."

Programs 2006-07: The Myths And Fallacies of Anti-Aging Treatments; LAF speaker: Dr. Janet Conley; Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund; Local Scholarship Recipients Panel; Su Casa

Programs 2007-08: AAUW movie "Equity Is Still an Issue;" "Globalization;" "Making Your Own Luck;" Cerritos College scholarship recipient; Janice Lee, EF recipient; "Women in American Politics;" "A Touch of Hawaii;" "Presidents Were Teenagers Too"

2008-10 Pres. Gail Ross: During Gail's term, our Fashion shows to raise funds for local scholarships began. Our branch also participated in the Cypress Day Parade; held Candidates Forums; produced a second Cookbook and held a General Fund Garage Sale. Retreats continued at Casa de Maria; two members attended CA AAUW Convention in San Diego. Marilyn Forsstrom attended the National AAUW Convention in Saint Louis where a motion to change membership criteria fails. Catalina/Ensenada Cruise raises money for AAUW Funds. Toiletry gift bags and scarves are given to Union Rescue Mission, and branch members also tutor students in the ABC School District; regular interest groups continue, as do the Annual Cerritos College Scholarship Ceremonies.

Programs 2008-09: Ballot Issues; "The Art of Living;" Line Dancing; Funds Luncheon Speaker: recipient Tracy Sachtjen; Rozanne Childs EF/LAF director, "Where the Girls Are: The

Facts About Gender Equity in Education;" "Anchors away!" (Sailboat trip around the world);
Crafts Night

Programs 2009-10: Union Rescue Mission; Re-Gifting Auction Brunch for AAUW Funds;
"How Culturally Adept Are You?" "Ten Top Things Women Need To Know to be Financially
Savvy;" "40th Anniversary Party of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund"

2010-11 Pres. Judy Figal: The year began with a successful summer BBQ. Local Scholarship fundraiser, "Walk on the Wild Side" fashion show was a huge success. We adopt a local family for the holidays as well as supporting Su Casa. We also participate in gift wrapping at Borders and at Barnes & Noble for AAUW Funds, and have a Re-gifting/Silent Auction at our annual Funds luncheon. We continue our Cerritos College program and hold a Candidates Forum. Four members attend CA AAUW convention. Funds holds a "Gold Party."

Judy considers the highlight of her term was the opportunity for our branch to join the Artesia-Cerritos Soroptimist members and the Artesia-Cerritos Women's Club to produce and present a history of impressive women throughout the past hundred years. We have often talked about joint ventures with other groups but this was a first for us in many years. It was a wonderful cooperative effort and was very successful. Several of our members participated in the presentation and they did an outstanding job!

Programs: American Red Cross; Cypress Choraliers; Olive Tree Initiative;
"Rosie the Riveter;" "Women's Heart Health"

THE FOURTH DECADE

2011-13 Pres. Barbara Dunstan: Barbara began her term by joining Jackie Shahzadi at the National AAUW Convention in Washington, DC. Fund raisers included a Re-gifting Auction and Used Book Sale for AAUW Funds, and a very successful fashion show/luncheon /Silent Auction: "Some Like It Hot" for local scholarships. An ABC School Board Candidates Forum was held; adopted a local family for the holidays and provided holiday gifts to Su Casa. Members decorated the display case at Cerritos College for Women's History month. The 19th Annual Cerritos College Scholarship Recognition Brunch provided a total of \$4,750 in scholarships to eight students. Holiday gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble raised \$1,260 for AAUW Funds. Members also ate at a local restaurant where a portion of the profits were donated to AAUW Funds. The annual Funds luncheon was very well received with, Julie Su, CA Labor Commissioner. Branch bylaws & policy guidelines were revised. Three members attended the CA AAUW Convention. Branch membership increased to 55 thanks to wonderful publicity and membership programs. The 2012 calendar year began with an annual picnic held at Cerritos City Park East. Plans for Local Scholarship fundraisers include a Silver Jewelry Party and participating in the Annual Holiday Boutique at the Cerritos Senior Center.

Programs 2011-12: Su Casa; Crafts Projects and celebration of the 130th Anniversary of National AAUW; "Who's In Control Here? Hormones and Healthy Longevity;" "Top Secret Rosie's;" "The Hormone Controversy: Dangerous Drugs or Life Enhancing Substances?" "Public School Funding in CA - From 1st to 48th in the Nation."

Programs 2012-13: Planned Parenthood; Branch 40th Anniversary Celebration

50th Anniversary Addendum to our 40th Anniversary Booklet

The second paragraph of the Introduction to the 40th Anniversary Branch History booklet talked about branch presidents and monies raised for, what is now called, AAUW Fund. Here is the update for our 50th anniversary referencing the same items but with updated specifics (which are in bold). By the fall of 1977, AAUW allowed multiple city names for branches. Consequently, and as our membership expanded to include women from other cities, primarily Cerritos, in November 1977 our branch name became La Palma – Cerritos.

There have been **35** presidents over the course of 50 years. Funds have been raised for two Research and Project Endowments and a **Career Development Grant, the latter in honor of Alberta Brose**. Approximately **90** members, plus MAX, have had the honor of being named AAUW Fund Named Honorees. **Of the members, 11 have been honored twice, three have been honored three times and one has been honored four times**. In the past 50 years our branch has contributed over **\$128,000** to the various Association funds, known over the span as **EFP, EF, Funds and Fund**. In addition, through the **AAUW California Special Projects Fund**, we have contributed **\$9,535** to send girls to **Tech Trek**.

The following are messages directly from or about our presidents and the branch accomplishments of our **FIFTH DECADE** upon the celebration of our 50th anniversary.

2013-2015: Pres. Barbara Atherton: I was Privileged and Honored to be President from 2013-2015. The work, the service, and the worthwhile causes of the organization were outstanding, as were the women I had the pleasure of working with! Fundraisers - Razzle-Dazzle Fashion show for AAUW Fund, Silver Party, Restaurants, Entertainment books

Programs 2013-2015: Speaker from OC office of aging SOAR Program, Holiday Chanukah story and Cypress Choraliers, State President Kathleen Doty on "State of the State", Dr. Susan Mathiew on Humor for Stress Relief", Nancy Rosenberg Longevity Stick Exercises, Marcia Farris Author, League of Women Voters, Whitney HS Choir, ZOE International Foundation, Cordelia Knott biography, Financial Planning, Women's Studies at Cerritos College.

2015-Oct. 2016 Pres. Paulette Smith: Paulette took over with her mission "to protect and assist women and girls." The "biggie" of her term was the incredible fifth, and final, Fashion Show/ Luncheon/Silent Auction, "Women are Superheroes," to raise funds for our Local Scholarship program. The Fund VPs and, notably, Local Scholarship chair Carol Marsh put on the biggest and most successful of these events. It netted \$13,423 bringing the total for the five times to just under \$40,000. (So much was raised that we are still, in 2022, using the funds to contribute about \$2,000 annually to the Cerritos College Foundation for the Academic Achievement Awards.) The Breakfast Club continued meeting and the branch produced a cookbook and provided holiday gifts for Su Casa and toiletries for the LA Union Mission. Barnes & Noble gift wrapping raised \$940 for Funds; there was a Funds brunch, a Local Scholarships recognition brunch at Cerritos College and an information table at the "Power of Women in Leadership" event at the U of Phoenix. The theme for Paulette's second installation was "Gifts for Gold." Unfortunately, Paulette had to resign her presidency early in its second year due to

her husband's serious illness. President-Elect Joyce Grohmann became President in November 2016.

Programs 2015-16: panel of Cerritos College professors on "Women in STEM;" "Make and Take" craft night; "People in Crisis" with speakers from Illumination Foundation, Micah's Way and Su Casa; lives of women leaders in Rwanda and Vietnam presented by Jackie; "The Role of Women in Politics" by assistant to Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia and Assemblymember Young Kim; ideas to help with future travel plans by Bob Aronson and Carol Apt; and ballot measures presented by the League of Women Voters.

November 2016 October 2017 Pres. Joyce Grohmann Joyce took over when Paulette was unable to continue as president due to her husband's illness. Unfortunately, Joyce passed away early in her second term. During Joyce's nearly a year in office, the branch did the following: continued Breakfast Club and collecting gifts for the Union Rescue Mission and Su Casa; had another wonderful holiday party at the Marshes' home; AAUW Funds fundraiser luncheon at Don Jose; hosted a candidates forum for the Cerritos City Council election; did a display at Cerritos College marking Women's History Month; hosted an Academic Achievement Awards brunch at Cerritos College recognizing our scholarship winners; and held Joyce's installation at Luxe Buffet in Westminster. Two significant accomplishments of the year were raising enough money to send two rising eighth-grade girls from the ABC School District to attend AAUW CA Tech Trek camp at Whittier College and the establishment of the Alberta Brose Memorial Fund to go to women returning to school, as Alberta did.

Programs 2016-17: speaker from college/university partner Cerritos College; speaker from Road Scholar; Funds lunch at the Marshes' with American Fellowship recipient speaker working on her PhD in History at UC Irvine, topic being the advocacy work by nurses who founded the first U.S. AIDS ward; "Benefits of Strength Training and Balance;" annual meeting where Joyce was elected for a second term; and Dr. Mary Sieu, ABCUSD Superintendent, talking about a variety of education topics. In October, the respective VPs/chairs provided information about the different projects for which our branch raises money: AAUW Fund, Tech Trek and Academic Achievement Awards.

2017-18: Due to the unexpected death of Joyce Grohmann early in her second term, the board decided to govern the rest of the year by committee and take turns presiding at meetings. Here is what several of them said:

Jackie Shahzadi: As a long time AAUW member and past President of our branch, I was happy to step up to fill-in the presidential duties of leading meetings. It was absolutely necessary to keep the branch rolling along as usual. I didn't start any new initiatives then, because I was distracted by preparing for upcoming brain surgery! All turned out well.

Gail Ross: During my presidency, I acknowledged members' birthdays and had their birthdays added to the membership lists. The new Alberta Brose Memorial Fund was created with a two-year goal of \$5000 to be given to women who went back to school later in life as she had done. We were actually able to complete and award the fund in just one year. We continued through the holiday season with gifts to Su Casa and fund raising by wrapping presents at Barnes and Noble bookstore. Program on Zumba exercise.

Dorothy Edwards: February brought our Fund Brunch and an announcement that enough money had been raised for Tech Trek to send four girls to camp. We had a very interesting meeting program with four international women speaking.

Sue Solomon: We held a nice brunch for our two Academic Achievement Awardees. A very interesting program in April highlighted sexual harassment in the film industry. Field Rep. for Linda Sanchez US House Rep. spoke in May.

2018-2020 Pres. Harriet Moses: September program introduced us to our 4 excellent Tech Trek girls. The winner of our Alberta Brose grant was announced, Elsie Carbajal. We had a movie presentation and lunch for Fundraiser and continued with giftwrapping. COVID quarantine was called in March and all in-person meetings were halted, but we continued online..

Programs 2018-2020: League of Women Voters, Andy Bales - Union Rescue Mission, Brain & Body Center - Yoga & Tai Chi, Jackie Shahzadi on International Women's Issues, Shin Liu on Community Colleges, La Palma City Council member Michele Steggell. Tech Trek girls, 1 Heart Caregiver Services, Judy Osuma - Alzheimer Family Center.

2020-2022 Pres. Beverly Zwick:

The 20-21 term was most unusual because the COVID-19 pandemic was affecting all of us and therefore business as usual could not function. We were not able to celebrate the installation of the new board with an installation luncheon nor were we able to meet in person for the first term. Zoom online became our vehicle for board and general meetings. The second year successfully resumed with in-person meetings, while observing local safety protocols and allowing members to also attend by telephone, if they chose to.

Some of the highlights were able to award four \$1,250.00 scholarships to four Cerritos College students; AAUW Fund VPs held two restaurant fundraisers one at Chipotle and another at Portillo's; donations were made to Su Casa; we received a grant of \$1000.00 to provide opportunities for women and girls in the local communities from Women in California Leadership via Assemblymember Sharon Quirk Silva; Norma Williamson and Gail Ross were successful in obtaining a \$500.00 award for our branch to be used for Norma's project "A Legacy of the Women's Suffrage Movement" commemorating the 101st Anniversary of the 19th Amendment that granted women the right to vote in 1920 and providing voter registration information to the public; Diane Merrick collected donations for Cerritos College Falcon's Nest to aid students with their basic needs; and we send 4 girls to virtual Tech Trek Camp in 2021 and 2 to on-campus in 2022.

Programs 2020-2022: League of Women Voters, Dr. Mary Sieu - ABCUSD Superintendent, Whitney HS Black Alumni, Dr. Contance Iloh, Miryam Fernandez - Immigrant Life Story, Judy Osuna - Meditation, Academic Awards winners, all held on Zoom. In person meetings could resume after September 2021 with our Tech Trek campers, League of Women Voters, Pam Sepulveda - Cerritos College Falcon's Nest, Maria Korcsmaros - Ocean Ecology, our Legacy Project students, Francine Rodriguez - author, Academic Achievement Awardees.

Membership Comparison

Per old newsletters, income and budgets:

September 1973: 27 members

October 1973: 41

September 1974: 33

October 1975: 80

February 1976: 84

December 1976: 112

June 1977: 119

September 1979: 80

The oldest directory that we have for the branch is 1979-80. We had 80 members with 25 from La Palma, 23 from Cerritos, 11 from Cypress, four from Buena Park and three each from Long Beach and Westminster. There were one or two other members from the following: La Mirada, Whittier, Norwalk, Fullerton, La Habra, Lakewood, Encinitas and Los Alamitos. Our members represented 15 cities. Starting from this year, and then moving forward every ten years, here are the statistics about our branch membership.

In 1980-81 we had 74 members: Cerritos - 26, La Palma - 20, Cypress - 11, Westminster - 4 and one or two members each from Buena Park, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, La Habra, Lakewood, La Mirada, Long Beach, Los Alamitos, Norwalk, Seal Beach and Whittier. Our 74 members represented 15 cities.

In 1990-91, we had 85 members: Cerritos - 44, Cypress - 9, La Palma - 8, Long Beach - 6, La Mirada - 3, Norwalk - 3 and one or two each from Bellflower, Buena Park, Downey, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, La Habra, Lakewood, Los Alamitos, Midway City, Orange, Seal Beach and Tustin. Our 85 members were from 18 different cities

In 2000-01 we had 62 members: Cerritos - 25, La Palma - 10, Cypress - 6, Long Beach - 3 and one or two each from Bell, Bellflower, Downey, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Iowa, La Habra, Lakewood, La Mirada, Los Alamitos, Norwalk, Orange, Seal Beach and Stanton. Our 62 members were from 14 different cities.

In 2010-11 we had 55 members: Cerritos - 19, La Palma - 10, Long Beach - 7, Cypress - 6, Norwalk - 3 and one or two each from Buena Park, Downey, Garden Grove, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach and Stanton. Our 55 members were from 11 different cities.

In 2020-21 we had 40 members: Cerritos - 17, La Palma - 6, Cypress - 5, Long Beach - 3 and one or two each from Buena Park, Garden Grove, La Mirada, Los Alamitos, Norwalk, Seal Beach and Stanton. The remaining 12 were from eight other cities. The 40 members were from 11 different cities.

This year, 2022-23, the count is: Cerritos - 18, La Palma - 5, Cypress - 5, Long Beach - 3 and one each from Anaheim, Buena Park, Garden Grove, Los Alamitos, Norwalk, Seal Beach and Stanton. There are 39 members representing 11 cities.

From Celia: About a week after our wonderful 50th anniversary celebration, I looked through a personal folder of branch memorabilia that I had forgotten about and have kept for many years. One thing that I found was a computer printout list (dot matrix - which tells you that it is old) of the branch board members starting with our 1972-73 charter year and ending with 1987-88. In reading through it, I noticed many occurrences of 14 current branch members. I decided to put together a list, by year, of who did what and when. I hope you find it interesting. You will see the following names: Tobi Balma, Carol Marsh, Edna Ethington, Harriet Moses, Celia Spitzer, Joan Flax, Joan Pylman, Dorothy Edwards, Mary Ann Quinn, Marilyn Forsstrom, Sue Solomon, Cathy Niederman, Jackie Shahzadi and Faith Herschler.

- 1972-73 Tobi - Secretary
- 1973-74 Carol - Theater; Edna - Study Group
- 1974-75 Edna - Program VP; Tobi - undesignated board member
- 1975-76 Edna - ProgramVP; Tobi - Theater
- 1976-77 Harriet - Treasurer; Tobi - Community (Cerritos)
- 1977-78 Celia - Social; Joan F. - Legislation (now called Public Policy) and Telephone Tree; Dorothy - International Relations; Mary Ann - Education; Tobi - Community (Cerritos)
- 1978-79 Celia - Membership VP; Tobi - Community (Cerritos)
- 1979-80 Celia - President; Joan F. - Theater; Marilyn - Gourmet
- 1980-81 Celia - Secretary; Joan F. - International Relations
- 1981-82 Celia - Take Hold of Technology (Association Study Issue)
- 1982-83 Celia - Take Hold of Technology and Bulletin typist; Sue S. - Convention Fund; Joan F. - Social
- 1983-84 Sue S. - EFP (now called Fund); Marilyn - Cultural; Cathy - Convention Fund; Joan F. - Ex Libris (book club); Celia - Lunch Bunch
- 1984-85 Sue S. - EFP; Cathy - Peace & National Security Study Issue and International Relations; Celia - Gourmet; Joan F. - Ex Libris and Sandbox Set; Tobi - Singles
- 1985-86 Celia - Treasurer; Mary Ann - Education; Joan P. - Bulleting circulation; Sue S. - Community (LA County); Tobi - Friendship Circle (nee Singles); Joan F. - Sandbox Set
- 1986-87 Sue S. - President Elect; Tobi - Program co-VP; Celia - Education; Joan P. - Bulletin circulation; Joan F. - Historian and, with Marty, Gourmet
- 1987-88 Sue S. - President; Cathy - Program co-VP; Tobi - EFP co-VP; Jackie - Secretary; Joan P. - Treasurer; Celia - Legislation and Education; Joan F. - Bulletin editor; Mary Ann - Telephone Tree; Marilyn - Historian and Music; Faith - Gourmet; Cathy - Handcrafters