



# Northwest Valley Branch

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The April General Meeting was held at Corte Bella on April 21st, and the 2011-2012 Officers were installed:

Co-Presidents	Connie Johnson
	Harriett Grau
President Elect:	Joan Meagher
Program VP's	Joye Kohl
	Barbara Sausen
Membership VP's	Barbara Gobell — 1 year term
	Mary Kay Chester — 2 year term
Finance VP's	Alice Craig — 1 year term
	<b>2 yr Unfilled</b>
Recording Secretary.	Mary Jo Blum
Corresponding Secretary	Sheila George

Click [here](#) for pictures from the April Luncheon

For pictures from the Rio Salado College Awards Night please click [here](#)

### AAUW MISSION STATEMENT

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



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# STOP

## MARK YOUR FALL CALENDARS

### Our very own AAUW Branch Creative Writers

### Are Publishing

## TRANSITIONS

### A book you will want to read

Here is an excerpt:

“All his face revealed under the surgical drape was the unmoving left eye, blinded for twenty years by a dense cataract. Now it resembled a white opaque marble held stationary by local anesthesia. Though he didn't show any emotion, Amandu was undoubtedly scared, fearing what many African patients fear...that the tall white doctor was going to remove his eye, wash it off, and put it back in”

You want to know the rest of the story...right?

TRANSITIONS has it all. Adventure, memories, humor, poetry, short stories, essays, fiction and non-fiction all come alive in TRANSITIONS. You will be entertained.

Look for further information in coming issues of *e-Currents*.

### Attention Interest Group Leaders

Any Special Interest Group leader who wishes to have us feature her group can email me whatever she wishes to highlight. *Sylvia Brown* ([sylviabaauw@cox.net](mailto:sylviabaauw@cox.net))



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### Betty Eldridge, President 2010—2011

It was an ideal day in Arizona. The birds were chirping their pretty little songs. The sky was a perfect blue with no clouds in sight. The cacti were in bloom and the people around me were teary eyed, with dripping noses from the allergies they've never had before they moved to Arizona.

I was musing about my year as president, what I've accomplished and what I've left to be done next year. Our membership was down this year and our attendance at the general meetings was down a great deal.

Dysart Community Center sent us a thank you for all we have done for them this year. We provided finances, supplies, books and tutors. I hope that some of our people will continue to help the center next year and beyond.

We have had successful fund raisers and will be able to pay our Book Grants. The energy that all of you have put in has been wonderful.

I attended the 2011 State Convention, "Bridges to the Future" on Saturday ([click here for photos](#)) and items of interest to all are:

1. The state dues will remain the same as they are now.
2. We will have "one person, one vote" at the state level as well as the national level.
3. We will continue to belong to the Rocky Mountain Conference which meets every other year and it is Arizona's turn to host it in the summer of 2012.

Since this is my last letter I would like to end with some **WHAT IFS?**

WHAT IF? —

- Everyone read the E-Currents faithfully and checked the Web Site at least once a week
- We chose not to give Book Grants to high school seniors (There are approximately 1000 high school seniors graduating in Dysart each year and we got seven applications)
- We had a Book Club that only read biographies and "Great Books"
- Everyone could bring someone new, a potential member, with them at least once during the year as we need new members
- We had one "Drop Dead, Outstanding" program each year that we might have to pay for but could perhaps share the cost and program with some other organization.

**We are never too old to set another goal or dream another dream. We are today where our thoughts have brought us; we are tomorrow where our thoughts will take us!**

It has been a pleasure working with everyone this year, thanks to all of you. Have a great summer!



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Note: Our membership co-chairs will be available all summer either by phone or email, see below for their information.

**Barbara Gobell**

687- 6629

[barbaragobell@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaragobell@yahoo.com)

**Sue Hanrahan**

544-8497

[stunsueh@yahoo.com](mailto:stunsueh@yahoo.com)

Remember to renew your 2011-2012 Branch Membership **before** July 1st.

Click [here](#) for the 2011-2012 Membership Form.

### STEM MEETING

A meeting was held at the home of Betty Merwin on Friday April 8th. The discussion topics were: Arizona statewide STEM initiatives, DUSD projects, and program planning for next year. For the minutes of the discussion, see the Stem Initiatives page.

Elizabeth Rielly

[Click here to see Alice's MIM pictures.](#)



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*Phyllis Burnett*

*Due to having taken several additional falls since the holiday season, Phyllis was hospitalized, then went home and can presently be reached as follows: (NOTE-This is a new address)*

Phyllis Burnett  
c/o Brighton Gardens  
17225 Boswell Blvd  
Sun City, AZ 85373  
Telephone: 623-933-2222

*Telephone calls and cards are most welcome. Please telephone before visiting.*

*Sharon Forbes*

### Reminder

If you know of a member who is ill or who has had a death in the family, etc. please let our Sharing and Caring person, Pearl Quast, and our President know.

### Membership Renewal for 2011-2012

The decision has been made at the recent State Convention! Renewal fees for the coming year will remain at \$71.

The new Membership Renewal form is available on this website. (Click [here](#) for the Northwest Valley Branch membership form for 2011-2012.) It will also be available from Barbara Gobell.

Please remember to renew early to ensure that your correct information will be included in the new directory.

Ours is an organization filled with interesting, fun people! It gives us a chance to connect, explore, learn new things, and have fun. We also have a serious purpose: to make a difference for women and girls. Your renewal is a recommitment to that purpose. We are grateful and happy to all who stand with us.

### Directory Changes

#### Email Changes:

Pat Riffle change to: [jriffle34@cox.net](mailto:jriffle34@cox.net)

Mary Kay Chester – [chalknpills@aol.com](mailto:chalknpills@aol.com) - p.18

**Note:** Please send **Nancy Wilson** ([pqp223@aol.com](mailto:pqp223@aol.com)) information on New Members, Renewals, Email and Address changes.



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### Paycheck Fairness Act

A recently published [report](#) demonstrates that although public safety nets play an important role in mitigating the effects of job loss, disability and divorce, most individuals and families require additional assistance. Many find it by depending on private resources, including savings and increased employment of family members, [rather than](#) turning to public and government aid.

These findings illustrate one of the many reasons fair pay remains a vital issue. Women are increasingly becoming the sole breadwinners of their families – making [pay equity](#) not just a matter of fairness but the key to families making ends meet.

We know you're familiar with the issue of fair pay. We know you're aware of [the pay gap](#) and of the enormous burden that discriminatory pay places on women and families. The [Paycheck Fairness Act](#), which just barely failed to pass the Senate last year (despite holding the support of a majority of Senators!), would have helped to close the gender pay gap by updating our 48 year-old fair pay laws, closing loopholes, and prohibiting retaliation against workers who inquire about employers' wage practices or disclose their own wages.

That's all history. Now, we start fresh. We're done with our lawmakers ignoring the women who put them in office. **It's time to take action: Urge your members of Congress to cosponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act as it is reintroduced in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress!** By gathering cosponsors, we build momentum around the bill. This will raise the profile of the bill and of fair pay -- which during an election year means a much better chance of passage!

### Baldwin Aims to Ratify ERA

Recently, Rep. Tammy Baldwin (R-WI) [introduced](#) a bill to speed ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The legislation ([H.J. Res. 47](#)) would remove the deadline for ratification and render the Constitution amended once three additional states ratify. The last congressional deadline for state ratification ran out in 1982 with ratification from only 35 of the needed 38 state legislatures. Highlighting the continued importance of ratifying ERA, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia recently noted his [belief](#) that the Constitution does not currently prevent discrimination on the basis of sex.

AAUW is one of over 25 organizations to have endorsed Baldwin's bill, consistent with our 2009-2011 [Public Policy Program](#). We oppose all forms of discrimination and support constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals.



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## Special Interest Groups

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The GLUE that holds us together! Please contact me for information on any group.

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Judy Hodgins

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### What we're reading and writing...

#### I – The Novel Lovers

May 2<sup>nd</sup> 3 PM

Home of Kay Finke

*Homer and Langley*

by E. L. Doctorow

Next meeting in Oct.

Contact: Anne Levig

#### Book Talk II

Next meeting:

2<sup>nd</sup> Mon of Oct 1 PM

Contact: Joan Fedor or

Debbie Geske

#### The Open Book

May 16<sup>th</sup> 2 PM

Home of Betty Merwin

*Cutting for Stone* by

Abraham Verghese

June 20 *Dissolution*

Home of Sue Issenberg

July 18<sup>th</sup> *Freedom*

Home of Linn Bastian

Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> is *Nomad*

Home of Walda Stevens

Sept 10 , *The Likeness* or

*In the Woods*, at Alice's

Contact: Alice Craig

#### Evening Book Group

May 17th 7 PM

*Cutting for Stone* by

Abraham Verghese

Home of Jean Holtz

Contact: Deborah Channell

#### Memories to Memoirs

No meeting until 1<sup>st</sup> Mon of Oct.

Contact: Anne Levig

### What we're enjoying...

All Card Games at 1 PM

#### Bridge

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.

May 4<sup>th</sup> Judy Hodgins

May 18<sup>th</sup> Betty Eldridge

Contact: Pat Riffle

#### Bridge

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed.

No meeting until Oct.

Contact Debbie Geske if you would like to play or sub.

#### Solos

Every Sat 8:45 AM

CoCo's on Bell

Contact: Norma Denham or Mary Wylie

#### Hiking

May 9<sup>th</sup> 9 AM Starbucks (99<sup>th</sup> and Bell) for coffee and conversation.

Next hike in Oct.

Contact: Bonnie Boyce-Wilson

#### Creative Writing

May 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM

The Assignment: The dog was lying in the ditch, his sides heaving, blood running from his ears. Create a middle and leave an open ending.

Contact: Greta Bryan

### What we're learning...

#### Why So Few?

Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 10 AM

Contact and Home of: Elizabeth Rielly

#### Great Decisions

2<sup>nd</sup> Tue of Oct.

Contact: Lois White

#### International Issues

Contact: Shirley McDonald

#### AZ Adventures with Lunch

Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 10 AM

Planning meeting for 2011-12

Home of Joan Meagher, please

RSVP to Joan, by Monday, May 16th

#### Foreign Flicks

If you would like to be put

on the mailing list for

**Foreign Flicks** e mail Sylvia Brown

at [sylviabaauw@cox.net](mailto:sylviabaauw@cox.net)



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**From your e-Currents Editor**

Sylvia S. Brown [sylviabaauw@cox.net](mailto:sylviabaauw@cox.net) Note new email address.