

# NEWSLETTER Volume 65 Issue 9 April 2011

Linking you to Branch activities and to each other

# Las Distinguidas Recognition and Election of Officers at Saturday, April 16 Branch Meeting

The Whittier Branch of the American Association of University Women and guests will gather at the Radisson Hotel, 7320 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier, on Saturday, April 16 at 11:30 AM for the annual Las Distinguidas Recognition and election of the 2011-2012 slate of officers.

Three very active Whittier women will be honored at this event: Patricia Almada, Rebecca Eberle-Romberger, Psy.D and Jill Smith.

The American Association of University Women is open to all women with a college/university degree or an AA degree from an accredited community college. Those interested in attending are welcome to make reservations.

The Chicken Kiev luncheon is \$15.

Reservations for the April meeting can be made by calling Susan Halliday at 562-696-7395 or e-mailing her at WhittierAAUWreserv@yahoo.com. All reservations and cancellations must be in **by Tuesday**, **April 12**. Any cancellations after that date will be charged for the meal.

## From the President



## **President's Message**

Our thanks to Angelina Coe of the Whittier Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter for her interesting and informative talk. We were all touched by the women and children she spoke about.

The April 16 meeting is our annual meeting and the presentation of our Las Distinguidas Awards. We have three very caring and dedicated women who will be receiving this award. It is also our election of officers for the 2011-2012 year. As of our March 12 meeting the position of membership vice-president was still open. If you are interested, please contact Sharon Heck, president-elect. Joyce Paul, this year's membership chair, is willing to work with the new chairperson. Now is the time to start thinking about what you are going to do next year in AAUW. If you are interested in a certain chairmanship or committee to work on, please let Sharon Heck know.

Our State Convention is April 8-11 in Irvine. Sharon Heck and I are attending and hope to see some of our members there.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Radisson on Saturday, April 16 at 11:30 AM. Be sure to make reservations early.

Hope you all have a lovely Easter.

Shirley Ann Stewart

#### **SAVE THE DATES**

All AAUW Branch Board meetings will be held at St. Matthias Church, 7056 Washington Ave., Whittier, on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM.

April 5

May 3

June 7

#### 2011-2012 Slate of Officers

President – Sharon Heck Membership Treasurer - Carol K. Anderson

President-elect - Susan Halliday EF/LAF Vice-President - Peggy Fretz

Program Vice-President - Dolores Seidman Recording Secretary - Beverly Ball

Hospitality Vice-President - Carole Restovich Corresponding Secretary - Sally Schmidt

Membership— still looking Treasurer — Kaye Kidwell

#### **Public Policy**

by Sharon Heck

The U.S. Congress is trying to pass a Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act at the present time. The House of Representatives has passed a \$100 billion funding cuts Act

(H.R. 1) that falls unfairly on the backs of students, women and working families. For example, the proposed cuts would END programs that:

- Help children succeed in school. The bill would end the Even Start and Striving Readers programs, which
  support literacy projects for low-income children under age 7 and middle and high school students from
  troubled schools.
- **Encourage students to remain in school.** Programs that prevent high school dropouts would be entirely eliminated, as would programs helping low-income students pursue college readiness.
- Assist students in pursuing higher education. Financial aid programs for low-income and first-generation college students would be eliminated, as would programs for disabled students. Even Pell grants would be cut in the middle of the school year!
- **Help workers pursue job training.** Although we're in the middle of a recession that has displaced millions of workers, the bill would strip billions in funding for job training programs.
- Enable access to affordable health services. The bill would end all funding for community health programs that provide cost-saving screenings, as well as Title X, which provides health care for millions of low-income women and families. It would also stop all funding for teen pregnancy prevention grants.
- **Support older adults and their family caregivers.** The bill eliminates initiatives that help older Americans stay in their homes as they age and avoid costly nursing home care.
- Help protect workers' against sex discrimination, pay discrimination and pregnancy discrimination. Strong
  enforcement is essential so workers can provide for their families, yet the Draconian cuts in this bill
  endanger the enforcement programs that protect the hundreds of thousands of women denied wages they
  earned, denied their rights under the Family and Medical Leave Act and subjected to harassment and
  discrimination on the job.

The only thing standing between a sensible budget and the enactment of these cuts is the U.S. Senate. We need to send a message to Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein and tell them to oppose cuts to critical programs. You can do this online by going to AAUW.ORG or by sending a letter to:

Senator	•
U.S. Senate	
Washington, DC 20510	

#### **International Concerns**

International Concerns will meet on Tuesday, April 19 at 10 AM at Ellen Larson's home, Whittier Beverly Park, 12031 Beverly Blvd., #2D, Whittier. We invite all interested members to join us to discuss "How U.S. Foreign Policy Is Made." For further information, contact Maurine Behrens at 562-695-8436 or <a href="maurineb@verizon.net">maurineb@verizon.net</a>.

## **2011 Las Distinguidas Awards**

Each year since 1967 it has been the honor of the Greater Whittier Branch AAUW to recognize distinguished women of our community who have made significant contributions in the arts, education, community service and the professions. This year we once again will spotlight the following three women for their exceptional achievement as creative and dynamic leaders in the community.

#### Patricia Almada

Patricia was nominated for her significant contributions to the Whittier Area Literacy Council. Patricia is the current president of the board of directors for the Whittier Area Literacy Council. She has been a volunteer with WALC for six years, during which time she has donated thousands of hours of service to the promotion of literacy in our city. She has volunteered as a tutor, tutor trainer and board member .During her presidency she has increased the size and involvement of the volunteer board. She has overseen fundraising events such as the Scrabble Tournament and the Soup and a Good Book event. Through her leadership the council presented three Family Literacy Nights. The Literacy Council has suffered as a result of the state's fiscal crisis and Patricia assumed the presidency at a time of crisis. Under her leadership she not only increased the board but attracted 30 new tutors. Patricia retired from public education after 32 years of service in which she was a teacher, principal and director of bilingual programs. She also volunteers at the Interfaith Food Center and is a published author of over 40 children's books.

#### Rebecca Eberle-Romberger, Psy.D

Dr. Romberger has been an active member of Soroptimist International of Whittier since 1993. The Soroptimist proudly submitted her application for our consideration. She has been an effective committee chair of every major committee in Soroptomist and has also served as president, vice-president, recording secretary and as delegate to the Region and Federation. Dr. Romberger feels that her greatest accomplishment was working with the committee to assess Whittier's needs for women. The identified need was the Sexual Assault Response Team at Presbyterian Hospital. Rebecca's leadership and expertise in grant writing led to Soroptimist receiving a \$10,000 grant to launch the program. A forensic nurse, detectives and a rape/assault counselor are able to meet with the survivors in an atmosphere of privacy where they are treated with respect and vital evidence is preserved.

In her role as executive director and now as director of clinical training for the Intercommunity Counseling Center Dr. Romberger has overseen both operations and clinical supervision of the trainees and interns. The Counseling Center is a local Whittier non-profit agency which provides counseling services to low income residents and also offers internships and post-graduate training for MFTs and pre-doctoral psychologists. In addition her career has taken her to Whittier College where she now serves as director of student counseling services for Whittier College.

Dr. Romberger has also served as First Day director, Personnel Committee, Bridge of Faith Board consultant and has volunteered in numerous positions with Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, including neighborhood chair and is co-director of the annual Fix-n-Fun event for a weekend of service at Forest Lawn Scout Reservation. (Continued, page 5)

## 2011 Las Distinguidas Awards (Continued)

#### Jill Smith

Our own Jill Smith began her AAUW membership in 1976. Her activities at that time included involvement in book groups and she also led some of the study groups. After a few years full-time teaching and personal demands led to a hiatus from AAUW. While a student at La Serna High School Jill received a 'future teacher" scholarship". That was certainly a prediction of Jill's career. Jill worked for 30 years, mostly with Special Needs children, for Rowland School District. Jill became a state trainer for the Early Intervention for School Success Program and then led her own school to become a model for the state-wide program. Jill has been a visiting lecturer at Cal Poly Pomona, a teacher at the Frostig Center in Pasadena, an ESL adult education teacher for the Whittier Union High School District and a reading recovery teacher. Over the years she has received numerous awards as an outstanding teacher, including Teacher of the Year and Who's Who in American Education.

Ms. Smith rejoined AAUW and has been a dedicated and driving force serving two terms as president, program vice-president, secretary, hospitality vice –president and has been treasurer for the last four years. She has served as secretary of the AAUW Los Angeles County Interbranch Council. She has served as dorm mom and teacher for Tech Trek our annual summer program for 100 eighth grade girls as well as being involved with the Math/Science Conference for over 500 eighth grade girls.

Jill is the ultimate community volunteer. She personifies that supportive member who also has contributed time to the Whittier Division California Retired Teachers Association as insurance chair, recording secretary of Alpha Delta Kappa, fundraiser chair for Children's Home Society, Church of Religious Science board, Whittier College Auxiliary and League of Women Voters.

## **Modern Trends in Literature**

A Reliable Wife by Robert Goolrick

Thursday, April 28 at 7 PM Hostess Gwen Woirhaye Reviewed by Dolores Seidman

Co-hostess Yvette Rawlinson

Directions: 5810 Friends Ave., Whittier. Go north on Painter Ave. from Whittier Blvd., turn left on Beverly Blvd. and right on Friends Ave. (the first street). Go to the end of the street and it is the last house on the right. Parking might be a problem and it is a good idea to carpool.

Robert Goolrick's first novel is set in rural Wisconsin in 1907. The novel starts out with Ralph Truitt putting an ad in the paper, "Country businessman seeks a reliable wife." When Catherine steps off the train she is not the person he expected her to be. Let's discuss the concepts of love, deception and betrayal as the novel unfolds.

Kristine Yeseta, Chair

Please consider receiving this newsletter by e-mail. This will save the Branch the cost of printing and postage. You can contact Ginny Holloway, editor, to inform her of this switch. Thank you.

## **Math/Science Conference Notes**

I wish to thank the AAUW members who helped me with the 18<sup>th</sup> Math/Science Conference for Eighth Grade Girls in February. The audiologist became ill the day of the Conference and the registered nurse from Rio Hondo College had the counselor for the school step in to assist. The veterinarian's husband needed surgery that day, but she asked Dr. Peggy Schmidt the day before to take her place. Dr. Schmidt has been a speaker many years. Fortunately, we had fewer health challenges with our AAUW members this year. Carol K. Anderson did a magnificent job of helping me with the food before and during the Conference. The signs Marge Bates made were an immense assistance and so were the Rio Hondo students in getting people to the correct rooms.

The big decision will be whether the membership wants to continue the Conference. I am letting the decision rest for awhile. I know that the construction in the center area of Rio Hondo College is to be completed by October 2011 and the president did say things would be back to normal then. So, I am not sure why February of 2012 would be a problem.

Ann Farmer has made a contact for me about returning to Whittier College. They are willing to have us and it would cost us \$950 for a half day. I think the use of the Shannon Center would be an additional cost. It was mentioned that Villalobos Hall would be a place for the opening session. I am not acquainted with that building. I haven't talked with them about the number of girls they can handle, as before we had 200 girls there. This year we had 475 girls and 25 teachers present, and with our speakers and AAUW members there were close to 550 people.

I had been promised \$1,000 from Supervisor Don Knabe, but the check still has not arrived. We did receive \$1,000 from the Rose Hills Foundation. Because we had a surplus in our account we were all right financially this year. We would not be able to handle unexpected costs in the future without raising registrations fees and seeking additional grants. I think overall the Conference went well and I have received thank-you notes from speakers, teachers and our members. The rain even cooperated by slowing the drops until the Conference ended.

Marian Locke, Math/Science Chair 2011

Check out the Whittier AAUW Website: AAUWWHITTIER.Info

#### **Our Members**

Best wishes to our long-time member, Harriet Kittle, who became Mrs. Bill Cornyn on March 6, 2011.

Shirley McMahon has moved to Oregon after some recent health issues to be nearer to her son and his wife. Her address there will be:

Shirley McMahon c/o Daniela Adult Care Home, Daniela Rosca 4531 NE 26th Avenue, Portland, OR 97211

## First Friday THIS MONTH ONLY ON THE SECOND FRIDAY

First Friday will be held April 8 from 6 to 8 PM at Barbara and Bill Gile's home, 14035 Eastridge Dr. Whittier, 562-693-7279. Directions: From Whittier Blvd., go north on Painter Ave. for 0.7 miles, turn right on Mar Vista St. and proceed 0.6 miles. Turn left on Vale Dr. and go one block to the corner of Vale and Eastridge Dr.

## **Membership**

Our year has officially come to a close. Officially we ended the year with 153 members. However, we have a new member as of Wednesday, March 16. Her name is Mary Torres. Additional information for Mary will be listed below. Mary will be counted with the 2011-2012 members. Yes, it is that time again. We will be asking you to complete applications and writing checks for the coming year which begins on July 1, but we start collecting now so that we have all your information for the yearbook/directory. If you got your application on Saturday, please do not forget to mail it in to us. We like to include everyone in that directory.

We started this year with 132 members. Additionally, we lost nine members. Some moved out of the area and some were no longer interested. We added 30 members this year (if we count Mary, the number is 31). It was an exciting and successful year because our members were so diligent and persistent in their invitations to friends, relatives, co-workers and neighbors. Thank you all so very much for all that you did this year. If we do not lose any members this year, and add 30 more, we could be at 183 this time next year. That would be amazing. In two years our membership could be over the 200 mark. You do know that we could do that.

Dolores Seidman has a new e-mail address. It is: deeseidman@gmail.com

Mary Torres' information: Address: 10754 Homeland, Whittier 90603

Phone: (H) 562-943-0747 (C) 562-547-6013 E-mail: rmtorres@aol.com

As always you can reach us at the numbers and e-mails below:

Sandy Bridges: 562-697-7427 or abrid848@aol.com

Yvette Rawlinson: 562-698-6867

Joyce Paul: 909-620-1202 or joycem.paul@yahoo.com

#### **More Than Words**

On May 11, at 1:30 we will review *Nothing to Envy; Ordinary Lives in North Korea* by Barbara Demick. More information will be given in the May issue.

Rosanne Seitz, Chair

## **AAUW Funds**

You already know how important the causes are that are part of AAUW Funds. Perhaps you don't know that for every \$750 our Branch members donate each year we can honor one of our members. You can send me your donations and I'll submit them for you, or if you would rather send your donations directly to the national office you may access the donor form on your computer. It may be accessed through the AAUW website or you can just search for AAUW donation form and you'll be able to find it that way. If you donate in this way, please be sure to mention our Branch so we'll get credit for it. Also, let me know, as I get no statements from the national office so I need to keep track of our donations myself.

Peggy Fretz, AAUW Funds Vice-President

#### Thanks from the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter

A very big thank you to the Whittier Branch members who attended the March 12 meeting at the Radisson Hotel. Ms. Angelina Coe, the executive director of the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter (WCCS), was very impressed with the generous response and the contributions of over \$500. It was also considerate for the Morning Book section to donate the funds from the sale of the Shamrock centerpieces to the Shelter. AAUW has been a loyal, concerned benefactor to WCCS for over 33 years. The victims of domestic violence will benefit from your thoughtfulness.

Check out the Whittier AAUW Website: AAUWWHITTIER.Info

### **Morning Book**

Morning Book will discuss *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett at 10 AM on Monday, April 25 at Marian Locke's home. Carol K. Anderson will lead the discussion. We will also vote on books to read for 2011-2012. *The Help* takes us to Jackson, Mississippi in 1962. Southern whites' guilt for not expressing gratitude to the Black maids who raise them is the theme of this novel that brings new resonance to the moral issues involved. Three women share the narration of this story of social awakening as seen from both sides of the American social divide.

Directions to Marian Locke's home,15555 La Monde St., Hacienda Hgts., 626-336-3430: Take Colima Rd. to Hacienda Blvd., left on Hacienda, left on Newton, left on Joan to La Monde, right on La Monde (15555 is on the corner, has blue shutters).

Janice Geiger, Chair, 562-695-9971

## **Saturday Night Bridge**

Saturday, April 30, 7 PM, at Mary Ellen Mead's home. Phone Mary Ellen Mead for further information, 562-693-6482.

#### **MEMORIES**

Write for your own enjoyment and for your grandchildren. We have a subject each month just to motivate us. Everyone is welcome, even if you have not written a thought or memory. There is no judgment on style or context. We just have fun! We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM and the meeting is usually over by 4 PM. The April meeting will be Wednesday, April 27 at the home of Gwen Woirhaye, 5810 Friends Ave., Whittier, 562-696-6405. Directions: Go north on Painter Ave. from Whittier Blvd., turn left on Beverly Blvd. and right on Friends Ave. (the first street). Go to the end of the street and it is the last house on the right. Parking might be a problem and it is a good idea to carpool. The following is a list of the subjects for the next four months:

Date	Hostess	Subject
April 27	Gwen Woirhaye	Taxes and Money
May 25	Carol J. Anderson	Hair
June 22	Judy Flanders	Grandchildren
July 27	Brenda Jahn	Redecorating

For more information contact: Colleen Tan, 562-698-4934

<u>Please</u> consult our style sheet and follow it when preparing your newsletter article. You will save us both a great deal of tedious, time-consuming work. If you do not have a style sheet, we'll send you one. Thank you. Ginny 562-777-4343 gholly47@msn.com

Margot 562-699-6898

## **Gardening Section**

In April the Gardening Section has a field trip to the Flower Fields in Carlsbad. This is a bus trip with lunch and a stop at the Outlet stores in Carlsbad at a very reasonable price. The tour is through Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital (PIH) Senior Life Center located at 12291 Washington Blvd., Suite #302. (This is the big white building behind PIH.) They are open from 9 AM to 4 PM.

The date is: Monday, April 4.

The 50-passenger bus leaves from the Home Depot parking lot at a time to be determined later. The hostess will call each passenger with the exact time and place. **The cost is \$40** for Senior Life Members and \$43 for non-members. You may request a free membership application when you sign up.

It is important to **pay the fee by check NOW** and they hold the checks until the day of the trip.

The trip includes a VIP coupon book for the Outlet stores, meal voucher, admission and tour of the flower fields, wagon ride and driver's tip. This trip will be instead of our April 5 Gardening Section meeting.

# EACH PERSON WHO WANTS TO GO ON THIS TRIP WILL HAVE TO SIGN UP AT THE SENIOR LIFE CENTER.

Martha, the receptionist, said there are still five seats available and it is very important to make the arrangements **NOW!!!!** If you want to call before you drive to the Senior Life Center the phone number is 562-698-0811, wait for the prompt, press 4, ext. 12444.

A DVD of our past garden trips will be shown at the AAUW California State Convention, which is April 8 through 10.

The Tuesday, May 4 meeting will be at the home of Barbara Gile to work on our community project. We will start at 1 PM to plan our garden for the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter.

For more information please contact:

Barbara Gile at barbaragile@me.com 562-693-7279

## **Walkers**

The AAUW Walkers Section is enjoying the great outdoors with blue skies, fresh air, spring flowers and the wonders of nature.

The Walking Section has three goals:

- 1. Walk one hour every week
- 2. Visit Whittier Art in Public Places
- 3. Increase health, circulation and friendships.

## **APRIL 2011**

07	Thursday	La Mirada Creek Park
	9 AM	Meet in parking lot off Santa Gertrudes Ave.

14	Inursday	Powder Canyon
	9 AM	Meet in parking lot off Fullerton Rd.

21	Thursday	Tour Michigan Park Area
	9 AM	Meet in parking lot off Michigan Ave.

28	Thursday	Schabarum Regional Park
	9 AM	Meet in parking lot by the front entrance kiosk

We welcome all who want to join us. For more information contact: Barbara Gile, 562-693-7279 or e-mail barbaragile@me.com

## With AAUW You Never Walk Alone!

## The New Phoenix

At our initial gathering on March 9, twelve new Phoenixes dined, and "wined", and talked and talked - we connected! A few decisions were made: bi-monthly gatherings (no formal meetings) and **reinforcement** of our purpose: to give moral/emotional/ physical support to one another. (In short, although we may not always be there with you, we hope we will always be there for you). I personally am gratified by the warmth that permeated where we sat. We experienced camaraderie while sharing our compassion. Join us when we gather at Sue Turco's home in **May**. Details for time and date will be sent to our members. For those who did not attend in March, please **contact Colleen Tan, 562, 698-4934.** 

Imagine: Spring, May, Tea!

#### STITCH AND BITCH

Our April meeting will be at Mary Ellen Mead's home on April 26 at 6:30 PM. Her address is 8335 Catalina Ave., Whittier. Directions: Going east on Whittier Blvd., Catalina Ave. is the first street after Ocean View Ave. Turn left, go two blocks to La Cuarta St., and her home is the third on the left after La Cuarta. Please let us know if you have knowledge of a special creative event that you think any of us may be interested in attending. We all like to know what is happening in the creative arts world. Please put this on your calendar if you are interested in attending. Thank you.

Let me know of your interests at 562-693-1964 or nankindness@verizon.net.

Nancy Kindness, Chair

\*

### DISCOVER aka KAPTIAN KINDNESS KAPTIVATING KORNER

We will not be active in April. Please look forward to May.

Nancy Kindness, Chair

#### **Positive Past Presidents**

PPP's is not active in April but look forward to meeting in May or June.

Nancy Kindness, Chair

# AAUW WHITTIER BRANCH CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2011

DAY	DATI	E TIME	MEETING PLACE
Monday	4	TBD	Section- Gardening Flower Fields, Carlsbad
Tuesday	5	7 PM	Whittier Branch Board - St. Matthias
Thursday	7	9 AM	Section-Walkers - La Mirada Creek Park
Friday	8	6-8 PM	First Friday @ Barbara & Bill Gile's
Thursday	14	9 AM	Section – Walkers, Powder Canyon
Friday	15	Midnight	Newsletter article submission deadline for May
Saturday	16	11:30 AM	Whittier Branch Meeting - Radisson Hotel
Tuesday	19	10 AM	Section - International Concerns @ Ellen Larson's
Thursday	21	9 AM	Section-Walkers - Tour Michigan Park Area
Monday	25	10 AM	Section-Morning Book @ Marian Locke's
Tuesday	26	6:30 PM	Stitch & Bitch @ Mary Ellen Mead's
Wednesday	27	1:30 PM	Section-Memories @ Gwen Woirhaye's
Thursday	28	9 AM	Section-Walkers - Schabarum Regional Park
Thursday	28	7 PM	Section-Modern Trends @ Gwen Woirhaye's
Saturday	30	7 PM	Section-Saturday Night Bridge @ Meads'



Whittier Branch P.O. Box 5333 Whittier, CA 90607-5333

**Editor:** 

Ginny Holloway <gholly47@msn.com>

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DATED MATERIAL
WE ARE ON THE WEB

Member Address City, CA Zip

#### **About AAUW**

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

The American Association of University Women (AAUW), founded in 1881, is the nation's leading organization advocating equity for women and girls. Its national membership of 100,000 seeks to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. People of every race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin and level of physical ability are invited to join.

AAUW California was launched in San Francisco in 1886 and began lobbying immediately. It remains the state's most active and diverse organization for women with 14,000 members in more than 150 branches, plus 6,000 members-at-large.

The **AAUW FUND** (formerly known as the Educational Foundation) supports women scholars around the globe, local teachers and activists. Its first research project in 1885 dispelled the notion that higher education is detrimental to women's health. It funds:

- \* Fellowships and Grants
- \* Special Awards
- \* Symposia, Roundtables and Forums

The AAUW FUND is now engaged in cutting-edge research such as the widely publicized 2008 report Where the Girls Are: The Facts About Gender Equity in Education. The latest published research is Why So Few? Women and Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

#### AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) is now part of the AAUW Fund.

This arm of AAUW combats sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace through community and campus outreach programs, a resource library, online advocacy tools and various research report opportunities for education and discussion on topics of equity, discrimination and tenure at California universities and colleges.

AAUW also encourages women to become involved at every level of the political process. We actively support legislation on educational equity and diversity in public schools, pay equity, reproductive choice, childcare, school-based health care, civil rights and responsible funding for public education.

To further its objectives AAUW has established the Women's Network for Change, a coalition of organizations working together to effect change.