



NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement: The Association for Women in Science, Inc. (AWIS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the achievement of equity and full participation of women in all areas of science and technology.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Fellow AWIS-SD Members & Friends,

The Holiday Season is around the corner! I hope that you will be able to join us for our annual Holiday Social on December 8th and bring a friend! The Events Committee is organizing a wonderful evening for networking and sharing laughs with friends. Do the Holidays stress you out? Is work driving you nuts? No problem! The Strategy Sessions Committee will present “Develop Techniques for Handling Stress” on December 5th to help you through it all with aplomb.

The Outreach Committee has been busy this Fall organizing our participation in ChemExpo demonstrating hydrophobic and hydrophilic properties and, on November 5th, hosting the Undergraduate Career Panel: Exploring Careers in Science and Engineering. Other fun Fall events included the Happy Hour at Karl Strauss and the “Develop Productive Teams” Strategy Session. I would like to extend my appreciation to the coordinators of our 10th Annual Open House, Diane Retallack, Barb Davids, and Michelle Gray. We had a terrific turnout of members and non-members! Thanks also to Janet White for coordinating the AWIS National Endowment Raffle (and donating the prize) and Felena Hanson at Hera Hub for providing such a lovely venue for the evening.

Please see Alka Malhotra’s article in this newsletter for more details on the Open House, including the names of our recent Volunteer Awardees who were announced at this event. These outstanding women are truly assets of AWIS-SD. Please extend your congratulations and appreciation to them when you next meet. If you are interested becoming an AWIS-SD volunteer, check out our eight wonderful regular committees and/or our ad hoc 2012 Gala Committee and join in the fun (www.awissd.org; click on the “Get Involved” tab)!

Members - if you haven’t yet voted in our 2011 AWIS San Diego Chapter Executive Board Election, please do so. Follow the link in the election email you received last week or email Anita Iyer (aiyer@awissd.org) for assistance. Please feel free to contact me at anytime, president@awissd.org.

Most sincerely,
Dody
 Dorothy (Dody) Sears

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AWIS-SD Hosts 10th Annual Open House

By Alka Malhotra

With more than 150 members and non-members in attendance, the air was filled with lively conversation as old and new friends mingled at the 10th annual AWIS-SD Open House. The event was held on October 25th at Hera Hub.

Felena Hanson, founder of Hera Hub, graciously provided the venue, which serves as a workspace for women who might not otherwise have access to office facilities to conduct their business.





AWIS-SD Open House
(Photos by Anita Iyer)

Given the large number in attendance, the registration queue reached outside the main door! But this was quickly reduced as Michelle Gray and Tineke Lauwaet registered the attendees. As one entered the main room, committee tables were lined up against the wall, with committee representatives available to answer questions. On one end of the tables were beverages, and on the other end some tasty appetizers to enjoy while interacting with committee members and other attendees.



AWIS-SD Open House
(Photos by Anita Iyer)

AWIS-SD President Dorothy Sears gave an in-depth and informative presentation describing how AWIS-SD has served members by empowering them as they progress through their

careers. To help new members and non-members learn more about the organization, she described the various committees, events, and participation opportunities that can help in career development.

All her words rang true for me. Two years ago, I attended my first AWIS event, the 2009 Open House. I became a member soon after and, since then, participation in AWIS-SD activities has helped me grow in my career, improve my leadership skills, and make some wonderful friends.

Not only did the Open House provide an opportunity for non-members to learn about the organization, but it also served as an occasion to honor AWIS-SD longstanding members and volunteers.

Eleven long-term members were recognized:

20 years (member since 1991)

Raymond Seraydarian

15 years (member since 1996)

Sharon Lynn Wampler

10 years (members since 2001)

- Janet White
- Margaret L. De Rose
- Anne S. Fege
- Donna M. Simmons
- Dorothy D. Sears
- Karin Zeh
- Rosemary M. Cesario
- Hima S. Joshi
- Andria Lee Del Tredici



AWIS-SD Open House
(Photo by Anita Iyer)

Several outstanding volunteer awards were presented to those who have made significant contributions to the mission of AWIS-SD during the past year.

Achievement in Innovation

Wendy Ochoa

Rookie of the Year

Margo Streets and Barbara Davids

Achievement in Outreach or Community Service

Alexis Pasulka

Outstanding Volunteer Award

Tamera Weissner

Leadership Service Award

Lisa Fong and Hoang Nhan

President's Award

Anneke Raney

Congratulations to all winners!



AWIS-SD Open House
(Photo by Anita Iyer)

Another highlight of the evening was raising money for the AWIS National Endowment Fund, which was started to ensure the future of AWIS. Contribution to the fund automatically entered members for a raffle drawing. Janet White, who was in charge of the raffle, announced that three hundred dollars was raised that evening.

Thanks to the hard work of the Open House organizers Diane Retallack, Michelle Gray, and Barb Davids, attendees had a very enjoyable evening.

For more photographs of the event by Anita Iyer, see <http://picasaweb.google.com/awisWebSd/AWISSDOpenHouse2011>

Focus Session: Project Management

By Margo Streets

September's Focus Session, a joint event between AWIS-SD and QWISE (Qualcomm Women in Science and Engineering), highlighted project management careers through a panel discussion moderated by Grace Nakayama. The panel participants were:

- Heather Clark, Vertex Pharmaceuticals
- Lillian Cordova, Qualcomm
- Michelle Fugett, Optimer Pharmaceuticals
- Mina Barati-Marnani, Qualcomm

All panelists shared information about their career path, skills they have acquired, what being a project manager requires, and their favorite part of the job. Each panelist had a diverse path to reach her current position. Barati-Marnani began working at Qualcomm as a components engineer and found opportunities to show her abilities prior to being promoted into a project management position. Cordova began by utilizing her knowledge of computers and IT to become a project analyst. This experience assisted her in becoming employed at Qualcomm. Hearing their stories gave the audience a broader view of different types of project management and how to create a career path to reach this type of job. Even despite these differences, each panelist agreed that being flexible, highly organized, and able to encourage a team through the down times are some of the most important qualities for a project manager.

Toward the end of the session, the floor was opened for questions, which ranged from how to become a competitive candidate to enter the field, to professional certification, to how to transition out of the field. Each of the panelists provided insightful thoughts and suggestions in response to each question. The crowd left having a better comprehension of what a project manager's job looks like on a daily basis.

**October Strategy Session:
Developing Productive Teams**

By Margo Streets

In October's Strategy Session, Mary Berney was the guest and spoke about how to develop productive teams. The session was planned by committee members Maha Gebara and Merrie Mosedale. Berney began her presentation with a slinky to represent how to maintain a sense of self while stretching, bending and being malleable to help the team accomplish its goals. The room split into groups to discuss characteristics of a team. Once the groups shared their discussion with the room, Berney shared her acronym for what a team requires – TEEMS: Trust, Engaged and Empowered, Expression, and Make things happen.

The second half of the presentation focused on personality traits. It began with a group activity describing the best way for a boss to communicate a project to an employee. It became apparent that many different personality types existed within the room and the groups. Some liked very detailed plans in writing, while others wanted informal direction about the big picture, with the opportunity to complete the project as they desired. Berney classified these through the DISC personality styles: Dominant, Interactive, Steady, and Conscientious. Each personality style has its own positives and struggles. She closed with returning to the slinky as a concept of adaptability: to have a productive team, each team member must be willing to meet the needs of others and encourage others to do the same.

Upcoming Events**Mid-Career Coffee Club**

November 17, 2011, 07:45am - 09:00am, food court at northwest corner of Scranton Rd. and Mira Mesa Blvd. Informal forum for AWIS-SD members in leadership and/or management positions to openly discuss issues faced on a daily basis. For more information contact rsoloff@awissd.org

Early-Career Coffee Club

November 28, 2011, 05:30 pm – 06:30 pm, Whole Foods Market: 8825 Villa La Jolla Dr La Jolla, California 92037. Join this group of supportive AWIS San Diego members who are about to, or who have just recently, started new career. Come and exchange resources, job search tips, and constructive criticism on resumes and cover letters, etc.

This meeting will focus on "Elevator speech". Try to prepare a short cca 1min speech about your experience, achievements and career goals. For more information contact awis.earlycareer@gmail.com

Strategy Session – Develop Techniques for Handling Stress

December 05, 2011, 06:00pm - 08:00pm, JONES DAY, 12265 El Camino Real, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92130

Strike a balance for your physical and mental health. Light refreshments will be served. Remember to bring your business cards! Contact: strategysessions@awissd.org

AWIS-SD Holiday Party

December 08, 2011, 05:30 pm - 11:00pm, Wine Steals

Join us at our annual Holiday Party at Wine Steals in Point Loma! AWIS will provide appetizers, pizza, dessert, and wine. The party will be in the back room from 5:30pm until 10:30pm. This event is open to members and non-members--please bring co-workers, friends, and significant others!

***Please remember that the alcohol license at Wine Steals requires that ALL guests must be over 21!

For directions and registration, please visit www.sdawis.org/events.

Coffee Club – Working Moms

December 09, 2011, 07:45am - 08:45am, Nobel Park - 8810 Judicial Drive, San Diego, CA 92121

If you are a working mom, please join us for our morning walk. We will make our way to a local cafe while sharing our experiences with juggling a career and being a mom. After you register, we will forward additional details regarding our meeting location.

Contact: Jennifer Cho and Corine Lau

should not exceed 250 words, event summaries should not exceed 500 words, and feature articles (special-interest stories and profiles) should not exceed 1000 words. The submission deadline for the next issue is **December 10, 2011**.

AWIS-San Diego Sponsors

AWIS-SD thanks our corporate sponsors for their generous support. Donations from corporate sponsors help us fund scholarship awards, monthly events and Strategy Sessions, community outreach efforts, the Newsletter and the website.

For more information about how your company can support AWIS-SD, send e-mail to fundAWISSd@gmail.com.

PREMIER

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About the AWIS Newsletter

The AWIS-SD Newsletter is published six times per year and provides AWIS members and supporters with information on Chapter activities, career development, and issues related to women in science.

Newsletter staff for November/December issue:

Nurith Amitai, Kerri Hebard-Massey, Tiffany Hernandez, Alka Malhotra, Denise McKee, Molly Moloney, Janice Payne, Pat Rarus, Rachel Schwartz, Shweta Sharma, and Geetha Srinivasan

We welcome **Nurith Amitai** as a new co-chair of the newsletter committee.

Pat Rarus is stepping down as a co-chair, but remains a committee member. We greatly appreciate her contributions as co-chair.

Contribute to the Newsletter

If you are an AWIS-SD member, we encourage you to contribute to the newsletter. Please send articles, photographs, and member news as MS Word attachments to newsletter@awissd.org. News articles

IMPORTANT CONTACTS**AWIS Board**

	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
President	Dorothy Sears	President@awissd.org
Past President	Jenny Chaplin	Pastpresident@awissd.org
Treasurer	Aparna Aiyer	Treasurer@awissd.org
Secretary	Linda Manza	Secretary@awissd.org
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	Diane Retallack	dretallack@awissd.org
	Anita Iyer	aiyer@awissd.org
	Grace Nakayama	gnakayama@awissd.org

To contact the Board, visit the following website:

<http://sdawis.org/about-awis-san-diego/board-members-awis>

Committee

	<u>Chair(s)</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Corporate Sponsorship	Anneke Raney Erin Dunn	CorporateSponsorship@awissd.org
Events	Monica Brown	Events@awissd.org
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