

## Celebrate with a Wassail

Saturday December 1, 2018

Charlotte Joseph  
Program Vice-President



Veteran members, new members and guests are invited to clink their Wassail glasses together to wish good health and festive cheer to each other at this free event. We will also be offering our monthly opportunity drawing at this event, for the purpose of supporting our scholarship programs at CSULB and LBCC!



The 2018 Holiday Wassail will be held on Saturday, December 1st at the home of Charlotte Joseph from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. There will be plenty of refreshments for everyone to enjoy. This is a perfect opportunity for potential members get to know the branch in a more intimate setting, and Shelley's artsy Interest Group Boards will be

on display. Here's your chance to show off our accomplishments and for guests to learn more about our many branch programs that advance equity for women and girls.

No reservations are needed for this event. We look forward to seeing everyone for this special social occasion. Stop in for a cup of Wassail and stay to share good food with friends. We look forward to seeing you! Please call Charlotte with any questions or if you need more information.

**AAUW Mission:**

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

**AAUW Values:**

Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

**AAUW's Vision:**

Equity for All

# Branch News

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## Courtesy



- 2 —Advent
- 3 —Hanukkah starts
- 7 —Pearl Harbor Day
- 25 —Christmas Day
- 26 —Kwanzaa

Best wishes to DECEMBER birthdays!

Renee Belville, Dee Dee Catalano, Mary Lamo,  
Jere Millington, Mary Ann Takemoto,  
and Thelma Witten

**If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?**

~ Percy Bysshe Shelley

## CALENDAR EVENTS

Meetings are the first Saturdays. The Dec 1 Wassail Party will be held at home of Charlotte Joseph.

**AAUW-LONG BEACH website:**

[www.aauw-longbeach.org](http://www.aauw-longbeach.org)



**AAUW email address:**

[AAUWLongBeach@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWLongBeach@gmail.com)

**We're on Facebook!**

[www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca](http://www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca)

**Follow AAUW on LinkedIn**

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/AAUW-Long-Beach-CA-Branch-7001584/about>

## In Memory of Two Wonderful Members

We are sad to share the news of the passing of two of our valued members. **Joyce Blasnek** passed away on Saturday, October 13, 2018. Joyce joined the Long Beach branch in July of 2000. She was a retired teacher and active in many groups including AAUW, her church and Retired Teachers. Years ago, Joyce fought breast cancer, and was more recently treated for bone cancer. Joyce's memorial service was held on November 2.

**Margy Arthur** passed away on Sunday, November 11, 2018. She was diagnosed with liver and lung cancer earlier this summer. Margy was a 50 year member of AAUW, joining branches wherever she lived, including South Lake Tahoe and Auburn. She was a teacher for a number of years and then started her own business taking high school students to different colleges and universities to help them explore their college options. She was very active with AAUW, enjoying the book groups, the Seal Beach Woman's Club and taking classes at OLLI at CSULB. No services are planned at this time.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**—All meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month, with meetings starting at 6:00pm. (No social time) All meetings will be at the Unitarian Universalist Church at Atherton and Bellflower Blvd. Room 2.  
Dates: November 19— February 18— April 15.



**FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**—All meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month, with meetings starting at 6:00pm. Meetings will be at the Unitarian Universalist church, Room 2. Dates: January 21—March 18 – May 20 (year end meeting)

Has any of your contact information changed? Phone? Email? Address? Help us to keep you informed in a timely manner. Send your changes to Database Coordinator George Jackson, at [georgeljackson@gmail.com](mailto:georgeljackson@gmail.com) or call 562-377-1670.

Send any Branch news or Courtesy items to Editor: Rebecca Low [rflow1@hotmail.com](mailto:rflow1@hotmail.com)

# President's Message



## Strength in Numbers - Each Effort Moves Us Closer to AAUW's Vision, "Equity for All"

Looking Back, since July 2018: A) Our goal for membership this year was conservative – 115 members. Four new members have joined since the first of July! As of October 15, 2018, we had 129 members. There have been two happy hour social events and one New Member Orientation. B) Work Smart workshops have been held four times, with 52 in attendance. There have been two sponsors, Wells Fargo—3 events; LB Councilmember Lena Gonzalez – 1 event. C) A new book club was started, and the first book has been reviewed. D) Nearly all Committees and Interest Groups have met at least once since August and are on their way to contribute to the branch goals. E) The Author's Luncheon fundraiser was redefined and successfully launched.

Moving Forward: What will you contribute to the Vision of AAUW – "Equity for All"? Will it be your time? Your talents? Your treasure?

How will you share the great news about Work Smart becoming available online?

Scheduled classes are available on the AAUW National Website, to share with friends and family in Long Beach or other states: <https://salary.aauw.org/work-smart/>

A Spanish version is in the works, too! Making it free and available to enable all women to be a part of closing the pay gap. The Online version is already available at this site: <https://salary.aauw.org/> Start Smart will be presented this spring at CSULB, and we are working to get it up to speed at LBCC.

Tech Trek and the STEM Career Conference are coming right around the corner. Our Long Beach middle school students and the STEM Career Conference committee could use your help between now and February. How will you contribute to provide a hands-on experience for girls to learn about science, technology, engineering and math and how those careers will change the world with their input?

Maybe you'll run for a leadership position on the board. Bring fresh ideas to the branch and contribute to its success! Will you step up to take reservations, manage the budget, write articles, oversee investments, procure sponsors, facilitators, speakers, or create a sense of connection and belonging for new members. Volunteer by working behind the scenes to pack goodie bags, take photos of events, or write thank you notes. We need you! Invite guests to meetings and events. We need them, too!

2019 will bring its share of challenges, and the Long Beach Branch has the capability to demonstrate to the region that we are up to the task of creating more opportunities for equity. Just showing up, spreading the news, and sharing your energy and skills makes a difference every day.

There is strength in numbers, especially if we each contribute what we can to be a part of the Vision! Thank you for your contributions this year. We couldn't have done it without every one of you.

Denise Montoya



## OPPORTUNITY DRAWING at OUR WASSAIL EVENT

Buy Tickets!

Support Scholarships!

\$1 - 1 ticket

\$5 - 6 tickets

\$10 - 15 tickets

WANTED FOR THIS DECEMBER EVENT

Shiny Sparkly Treasures that don't meet your needs, so we can keep the fun going.

Those whose last names begin with G, H, I, J please bring any unwrapped treasure you may wish to donate.

# Join the Cultural Adventures Group

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## RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

4600 VIRGINIA ROAD LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90807  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2018 1:00PM

Please join us when we visit beautiful Rancho Los Cerritos in Long Beach and get a wonderful look into California's history. Our own member, Sarah Wolk Fitzgerald, works at the Rancho. The Rancho will be dressed up in holiday Victorian decor and you will have the opportunity to see how the early settlers lived. You will leave with lovely visions of the coming holiday season. The tour is approximately one hour long and comfortable walking shoes are recommended. We suggest carpooling or you can drive yourself. Cost: Admission is free but donations are appreciated.

Directions: Located in the Bixby Knolls neighborhood and just past the Virginia Country Club (you actually drive through it), and once you pass through VCC, there is a parking lot on the left side or accessible parking through the gates on the right and up the hill. The nearest major cross streets are Long Beach Blvd. and San Antonio.

RSVP: Fay Denny at [faydenny@yahoo.com](mailto:faydenny@yahoo.com) or 714-894-0416



## Congratulations to Ellen Mathis and Frances Rozner

Congratulations to Ellen Mathis and Frances Rozner for being the newest members of AAUW's Legacy Circle. Heather Miller, AAUW Director of Planned Giving presented them with pins to honor them in a presentation at the AAUW CA Fund luncheon on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Legacy Circle is a way for AAUW members to designate in their estate planning that AAUW is included in the plan. Becoming a member is as simple as filling out a one page form and making sure one's wishes are known in one's will. The donor simply states that AAUW is included in their plans and no mention of how much or what will be left is needed. Whether it's stocks, bonds, property, \$5 or \$5 million, AAUW won't know until after the member's death.

Sharon, Frances or Ellen can answer your questions if you're interested.

Sharon Westafer, AAUW CA Fund committee

## Great Decisions Discussion Group 2019

The Great Decisions discussions group will start in February. This group is designed to encourage debate and discussion of important global issues of our time. The Great Decisions book highlights nine thought-provoking foreign policy challenges facing America. Each chapter tackles a different challenge facing America today. The program provides materials that help people reach informed decisions on the issues and participate on the foreign policy process and world affairs.



Please order your book by early December 2018. Make your **\$25.00** checks payable to: Rita Powell (You can give your check to Rita in person at an AAUW meeting or mail it to the address in your AAUW Yearbook.) Some of the topics covered for 2019 are: Global Migration, Trade with China, Middle East, US and Mexico. Groups and locations will be determined soon.



## AAUW Work Smart 2018 and beyond

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Mary Lamo, Frances Rozner, Sharon Westafer



The October 18 workshop had 19 attendees, with eight young women traveling from Santa Monica. Their business professor at Santa Monica College, Cassie Rockwell, who attended the July 12<sup>th</sup> workshop and was so excited by what we are providing for women to close the gender pay gap, is offering extra credit to her students to take the workshop. Teaching business at community colleges throughout Los Angeles, she wants her students to be successful and will be sending more to our workshops in the future.

You may already have received the announcement from AAUW that an online version of AAUW Work Smart now exists. Please do check it out at <https://salary.aauw.org> and forward the link to women you know who can't attend a live course. AAUW continues to provide marketing for the live classes believing these are still the most effective option. Ms. Rockwell's comment, when she received from us the link to the online course: "I personally love the on-site work for the human exchange and the actual practice in negotiating, both key benefits of your on-ground workshops. It is invaluable to me."

We are in the process of scheduling a January workshop, with the following now available: **Saturday, December 8, 1:30pm - 3:30pm**, at 3<sup>rd</sup> District City Councilwoman Suzie Price's Field office in the Conservation Corps Bldg., in Marina Park, sponsored by Wells Fargo. Registration is at <https://salary.aauw.org/longbeach>.

During this holiday season, an AAUW Work Smart workshop is a perfect way for women to give themselves the gift of a more secure financial future. Thank you for offering this gift to the women you know!

## STEM Career Conference—Call for Volunteers!

Mary Lamo, Frances Rozner, Raquel Sanchez

It's that time of year again! We are looking for volunteers to assist at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual AAUW LB Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Career Conference. At this yearly Conference, women in STEM careers present workshops to middle-school girls to excite them about the possibilities of such careers and encourage them to attend college.



All seven schools are returning from last year, but with two new teacher Champions. All the careers have been confirmed: architect, astrophysicist, environmental engineer, mechanical engineer, speech-language pathologist, paleontologist, environmental scientist, coroner, software engineer, and marine biologist.

Volunteers for this event are needed to take on tasks like facilitating speakers, helping with registration, preparing conference bags and bagged refreshments, and photographing key elements. We've been buoyed by the numbers of you who have already volunteered, but we do need at least 40 volunteers. Volunteers always find this a very inspiring event, so please do participate again or do so for your first very time.

The Conference is scheduled for Friday, February 22, 2019 from 4:30pm - 7:00pm. (volunteers arrive earlier!) at Long Beach City College (Liberal Arts Campus). Some of the volunteer opportunities occur during the week prior, if you can't attend on Friday. If you are interested in being a volunteer or have any questions about assisting at the STEM Career Conference, please email Darlene Daclan at [darlene\\_daclan@yahoo.com](mailto:darlene_daclan@yahoo.com) or call/text to 562/673-6909.

## The Nominating Committee Would Like To Hear From You!

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Sharon Westafer, Chair

The updated branch bylaws changed how the nominating committee is selected and the new nominating committee is already working to recruit a slate of officers for the 2019-2020 branch year! The committee is composed of Sharon Westafer, Immediate Past President, Mina Naghavi, President elect, Sonya Clark, Co-Fund V.P., Becky Low, Vantage editor, and Dianne Bradfield, member at large.

We continue to look for members for the following positions for 2019-2020: Vice President (President-Elect), Program Vice President, Membership Vice President, AAUW Fund Vice President, Secretary, and Investments Vice President.

We know there are members who would do an outstanding job in any of the positions listed above. If you have a friend with whom you'd like to work, sharing an office is fun. Contact any of us on the committee to nominate yourself or someone you think would do a great job. Serving on the board is a terrific way to learn more about the branch, and AAUW, hone your leadership skills, enhance the development of the branch and get to know other members. Members in current offices or who have held offices in the past are always ready to help and mentor new office holders.



## Mystery Luncheon A Great Success

Judy Willis and Sharon Westafer, Co-Chairs



Miniature Frankensteins and pumpkin tray centerpieces created by Sandy Shelly, brought a festive atmosphere to the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Mystery Luncheon which featured Wendy Hornsby and Ellen Byron. Both authors were engaging and informative, while Ms. Byron shared some of her experiences working as a caterer/waitress for Martha Stewart. Debbie Mitsch of Mystery Ink Bookstore in Huntington Beach supplied books to purchase and sales were brisk.

Approximately \$4,000 was netted to benefit the AAUW Fund, one of the nation's largest sources of private funding for educational programs that directly benefit women and girls. The Fund supports ground-breaking research, fellowships and grants for outstanding women from around the globe, and gives special grants for vital community projects.

We sincerely thank committee members Fay Denny, past chair of the event, who provided support and guidance; Judith Kaho, Silent Auction items and baskets; JoAnn Kuroda and Gil Goodwin, check-in table; Sandy Shelley, table centerpieces; Gail Morrison, Communications Director; Sharon Westafer, Treasurer and Reservations; Julie Taboada and Linda Silver, Money Hat and basket wrapping; Dianne Bradfield, Door Prizes; Becky Low, invitations and program, and various members and interest groups for silent auction items. We couldn't have done it without each of you.

### Please welcome two new members to the Branch—

**Tobi Balma** is familiar with AAUW as she also participates in the Cerritos-La Palma branch and the Whittier Tech Trek. She lives in Cerritos and retired from Kaiser Permanente as a Medical Social Worker. Contact at [Aauw.tobi@gmail.com](mailto:Aauw.tobi@gmail.com)

**Jan Deibert** is a retired High School Math teacher who lives in Huntington Beach. She has a passion for rescuing Springer spaniels! [jandeibert@yahoo.com](mailto:jandeibert@yahoo.com)



# BRANCH INTEREST GROUPS

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Joining an AAUW members-only interest group (or many) is a great way to get to know other members on a more personal level. Make friends while participating in fun, informative and educational activities.

To start a new interest group, submit a description to the President and it will be passed along to the Interest Group Coordinator, for help with implementation.

*Reminder: All interest group participants MUST be AAUW Long Beach members. Guests may attend a meeting group or an interest group a maximum of three times before they are required to join AAUW. Interest groups are for the benefit of AAUW members.*



**Book Chat Plus Group** members present the most interesting book they have recently read, film they have seen or the most exciting travel experience they have had. If time allows, all three! Light refreshments are served along with the intriguing conversation. We meet the 1st Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Contact **Betty Thompson**, 562 - 430 - 8438 or [bettythom@aol.com](mailto:bettythom@aol.com)



**Cultural Adventures Group** plans trips to museums and other points of interest. It is usually a mid-week tour & lunch scheduled several times a year. Join a group that enjoys checking out museums and other cultural interests. Contact **JoAnn Koroda** at 562-429-6923 or email [sojoinlb@aol.com](mailto:sojoinlb@aol.com)



**Great Decisions Group** meets weekly to discuss, share opinions and ideas on a critical global issue. *To all Great Decisions Group members:* Great Decisions book information will be available at the branch meetings. If you plan to participate, you may also contact a group coordinator or Rita Powell at 562 685 2096.



**International Cuisine Group** meets and dines at restaurants of different ethnicity in the local area. It is usually scheduled every few months on a Wednesday within an easy drive of LB. Car pooling is an option. Come join a group who enjoys unique flavors of the world.

Contact **Fay Denny** at 714-894-0416 at email [faydenny@yahoo.com](mailto:faydenny@yahoo.com).



**Literary Ladies Group** meets to discuss and compare thoughts on a selected book, fiction or non-fiction.

The group comes together to hear thoughts and insights from others in the group. Each member takes a turn recommending and leading the group. They meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 12:30 p.m.

There is a maximum of 10 and currently a waiting list. Contact **Sharon Westafer**, 562-493-4749 if interested. The book selection for December is *Conclave* by Robert Harris.



**Public Policy** meetings, explore, discuss and support the active legislative issues of AAUW, which underscore our mission of promoting equity and education for all women and girls. The group passes on knowledge and information to all branch members and encourage them to become involved with AAUW issues. For the next meeting - Contact **Flo Pickett** [flopickett@gmail.com](mailto:flopickett@gmail.com)



**Residential Rentals Discussion Group** meets the 3rd Wednesday of odd months year round from 10:00-11:30 am. Our meetings are **November 14, 2018, January 16 and March 20, 2019**. Anyone with an interest (owner or not) in residential rental is welcome. We cover current landlord/tenant topics, share experiences and work to keep current in the housing industry all in an informal setting. Co-Chairs Ellen Mathis—

[epmathis@verizon.net](mailto:epmathis@verizon.net) - and Joan Gustafson — [jwg221@aol.com](mailto:jwg221@aol.com) - invite you to check the group out.



**NEW ! - Movie Mavens** enjoy each others company at a movie and then chat about it over coffee afterwards. All are welcome! If you would like to be added to the email list please contact Shelley Arnold at 562-421-1759 or [shelleyarnold1@aol.com](mailto:shelleyarnold1@aol.com)



**NEW! - Book Group** - The "new" Book Club will meet the 3rd Saturday of the month, November 17th at 2:00 PM at Bev Krivokapich's home in Los Alamitos. We will read *The Woman's Club* by Elaine Weiss.

Contact **Beverly Krivokapich** 562-596-1826 or email [bevkrivo@yahoo.com](mailto:bevkrivo@yahoo.com) to be included in this new group.

## AAUW Long Beach Branch

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization, on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability



### AAUW FUND Fundraiser on Sunday, February 24th at the ITC Theatre.

Come see  
“Life Could Be a Dream”  
a rollicking musical with songs  
from the Doo-Wop era.  
It promises to be an afternoon of  
fun and friendship.

Tickets are \$49 with checks  
payable to MaryAnn Takemoto.

*Get your tickets now.*

### WASSAIL

**Saturday, December 1, 2018**

**10:00 - 12:00 Mingle and Enjoy**  
**Invite a friend or neighbor.**

**Place: Home of Charlotte Joseph**

**Meal: Delicious donations from members**

**Price: PRICELESS!**

**Remember to bring your Drawing Donation!!**  
**And be prepared to buy your tickets for**  
**those gifts—in support of Scholarships!**

Questions about the location?

Contact Charlotte Joseph

Email:

importantjoseph@aol.com

