



Vantage

A New Year & New Ideas

Herlinda Chico, Program Vice President

We are very excited about our January program where we will have **Domenique Harrison**, MA, MPH as our guest speaker. Domenique



is a strategist, curriculum developer, and trainer at the DMH-UCLA Prevention Center of Excellence, a partnership between UCLA and LA County's Department of Mental Health. Domenique is known as the racial equity expert on her team and strives to have the voices of vulnerable

individuals heard. She has done numerous professional presentations on implicit bias and systemic oppression.

Domenique's presentation on **Recognizing and Challenging Unconscious Bias** is an evidence-based, educational training that includes interactive group discussions, videos, and activities. We will learn to define implicit bias, identify our own biases, and mitigate the unintended effects of such biases. We will learn to apply our understanding of unconscious bias and explore strategies that challenge unconscious bias and racism.

The new Diversity and Inclusion Committee is working closely with the Program Committee to bring this program to the branch. To foster an inclusive and equitable organization, we must continue to learn, grown, and challenge our own perceptions and biases. This is a first step in that process and we hope that you will be able to join us. Do you know a prospective member who might be interested in this program and learning more about AAUW? Please invite them to join us for our January program from 10:30 am—12:00 pm. Use this link to RSVP:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZUudu-srDisGtcLjTOqL0klcoFF5DKnRvj4>

AAUW Mission :

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

AAUW Vision:

Equity for all.

AAUW Values:

Nonpartisan.

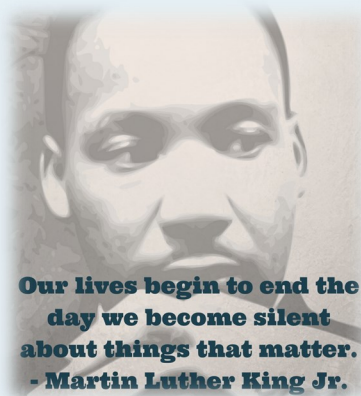
Fact-based.

Integrity.

Inclusion and Intersectionality.

AAUW Diversity Statement:

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation on the basis of age, disability, gender, location, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.



From the Co-Presidents

by Stelet Kim & Jeane Relleve Caveness, Ph.D.

We are happy to report that the November Membership Survey had a 51% response rate. The survey was created collaboratively by two committees: Membership and Diversity & Inclusion in order to:

- ensure that branch meetings and activities are responsive to the needs of members
- create an open, inclusive, and welcoming branch environment, and
- develop a membership that is diverse and reflective of the city of Long Beach.

Survey data will be studied by the committees and the officers in order to formulate responses and strategies, as appropriate. An Executive Summary will be available by the end of January. If you are interested in more information than is covered in the summary, you may email Co-President Jeane Caveness.

To preserve confidentiality, no information will be released that would identify any individual members.

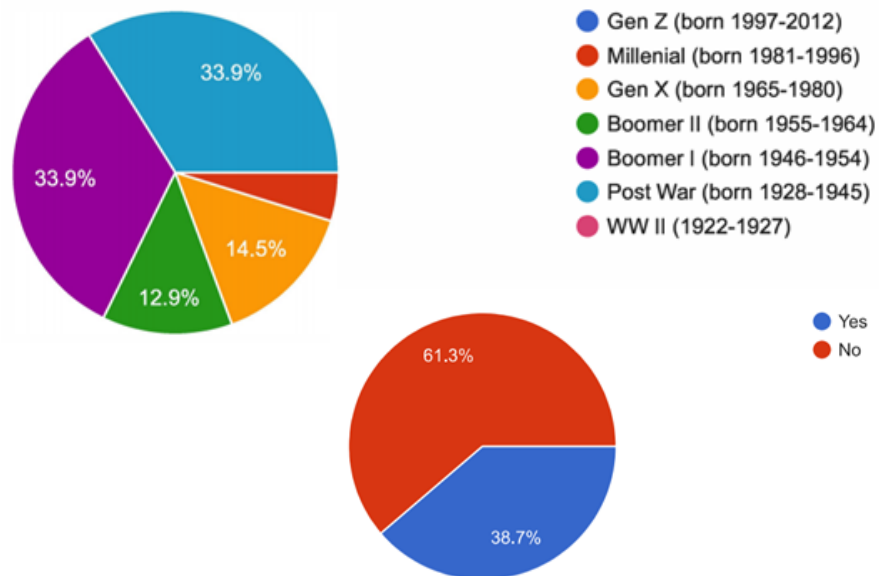
For now, we would like to share a couple data points:

What is your age?

62 responses

Are you currently employed?

62 responses



We would also like to share some information prompted by comments for the question...

“What are the top three things that the Branch could do better?”:

- **Motions** from Board and Executive Committee meetings are reported to the Branch in the *Vantage* which is published after meetings have taken place.
- Have an idea for a **new Interest Group**? We’re happy to discuss it with you and help you get started. Just contact one of the Co-Presidents Stelet Kim or Jeane Caveness.
- Any member is welcome to **attend Board and Executive Committee (abbreviation=E.C.) meetings as an observer**. Meeting dates are published in the *Vantage*. Typically, Board and E.C. meetings alternate and are held on the third Thursday of the month from approximately 6:15-7:45 pm. Note that the schedule may be altered due to holidays. Come, watch your leaders in action and learn about the intricate world of parliamentary procedure! RSVP to one of the Co-Presidents so that we can send you the Zoom meeting link, agenda and supporting documents for the meeting you wish to attend.
- The Co-Presidents will work harder to ensure that terms which may be unfamiliar to new members are explained at meetings.

Of course, there were many more member suggestions and constructive feedback that will be addressed, but we just wanted to get you the preceding information right away. Expect to hear more in the coming months!

Congratulations to our Members

Our own Membership VP **Herlinda Chico** won election to the Long Beach Community College District Board of Trustees in November. She was sworn in on Monday, December 21, 2020. She will represent District #4. Herlinda continues to serve as field deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn.

Mary Lamo, our indefatigable Membership Treasurer, STEM Conference Co-Chair, Work Smart Co-Coordinator, and Yearbook Co-Editor was named a "Champion of Literacy" by the Long Beach Public Library Foundation for her tireless work since joining the Foundation Board in 2012. She chaired or co-chaired the Foundation's largest fundraising project, "Grape Expectations", multiple times, served on campaigns for two new libraries, and contributed in innumerable ways. For a full article see: [Long Beach Public Library Foundation » Blog Archive » Champion of Literacy, Mary Lamo-Putnam \(lbplfoundation.org\)](https://www.lbplfoundation.org/blog/archive/champion-of-literacy-mary-lamo-putnam)

Herlinda ... and Mary on left of the Library group



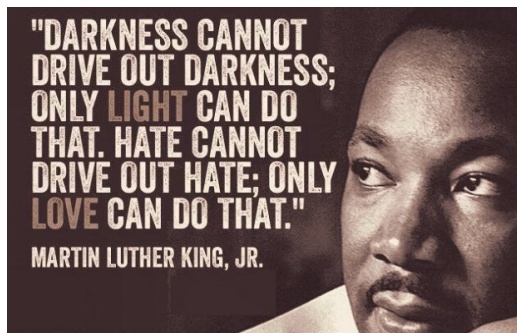
Calendar Dates to Note

Sat., Jan. 9	Branch Meeting
Sat., Jan. 25	Branch Board Meeting
Sat., Feb. 6	Branch Meeting
Sat., Mar. 6	Branch Meeting
Mon., Mar. 15	Branch Board Meeting
Sat., April 24	Author Luncheon!

Contact Us

aauwlongbeach@gmail.com
www.longbeach-ca.aauw.net
www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca

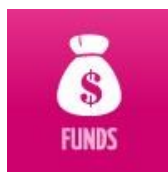
For Vantage info: Rebecca Low
rlow1@hotmail.com



We are sad to announce that former Branch President **Patricia (Pat) Sargeant** (2012-2013) passed away on the morning of December 15, 2020. If we receive further information about a virtual service, we will share it with you. Condolences may be sent to: *Family of Pat Sargeant*
P.O. Box 2693
Capistrano Beach, CA 92624

AAUW Fund

by Sharon Westafer & Barbara Vangsness



The Branch Fund committee would like to express our appreciation to our members for their generosity in making the non-event fundraiser such a success. We realize that there are many worthwhile organizations from which to choose. Thank you for choosing to support AAUW's efforts to promote equity for women and girls. Because of your generosity, \$3996 was donated sent to AAUW National. There was an additional \$700 in the Fund account which was excess from previous fundraisers and that money was also sent to AAUW National on behalf of the Greatest Needs Fund. One member also donated \$100 to the branch STEM conference.

If you were not able to donate to the fall fundraiser, you can always start out the year with a donation. The Fund committee wishes you a healthy, happy 2021. Thank you!

<https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/>

Branch Business

To be brought to the meeting on January 9, 2021—ByLaws Amendment.

At the request of the Executive Committee, Denise Montoya moves that the Membership approve the revision of Article IX Section 1.a. as shown with the addition of text in boldface and the text deleted as noted by strikeover.

Section 1.a. Nominations.

- a. There shall be a nominating committee of at least five members, consisting of the Immediate Past President as Advisor with the remaining four members **and committee Chair** appointed by the President ~~who will convene the first meeting~~. The first meeting shall occur no later than October 1 each year.

A vote will be taken at the business meeting.

A summary of additional Board Motions from December will be reviewed at the January meeting and can be found on the AAUW branch website.

Public Policy

by Arnedra Jordan, Public Policy Director

Meetings are held virtually the third Tuesday of each month at 12:00 pm.

For the Zoom meeting invitation, contact Arnedra Jordan, (310)722-6594 ajordan6@my.keller.edu

2-Minute Activist: Tell Congress to Pass Crisis Relief NOW

It's make-or-break week for Congress to pass long-overdue COVID relief. Help can't wait: Our nation recently surpassed 300,000 deaths and millions of people are struggling financially, especially women and people of color. [Tell Congress to do their jobs](#) and assist Americans through this time of extreme hardship.

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>



News from Nominating Committee

by Linda Silver



Dear fellow AAUW Long Beach Branch members,
Would you like to serve on the 2021-2022 executive committee in the capacity of either Membership Chair or President-Elect? If not, would you like to nominate another Branch member(s) for either of these offices? We are looking for candidates who possess dynamic leadership qualities, knowledge of the overall AAUW organization, and the ability to organize work well. We also seek candidates who can identify and understand the personal and diverse values and ideas of others. Please contact any of the committee members: Linda Silver, Dawn Hass, Dee Dee Catalano, Ginny Baxter, Deloris Mayuga or Julie Taboada with your suggestions. Thank you!

Membership Counts

by Dee Dee Catalano and Denise Montoya

The Buddy Program was developed by the AAUW – Long Beach Branch Membership Committee in the summer of 2018. An idea found on the National website was tool used to increase retention of new members. The idea is to assign a Buddy to a new member so that they immediately feel a connection with the Branch and will feel welcome.

We hope you will volunteer to be a new member's Buddy. It's an opportunity to work with an interesting new member who may have similar commitments to the advancement of women and girls.

A-n-d, you'll make a new AAUW friend! Lastly, your efforts will be contributing to the success of our "5 Star" qualification for membership retention of 95%!

Please contact Dee Dee Catalano, Membership VP at catalanosmith@yahoo.com or 562-310-5292 or Denise Montoya, Immediate Past-President dgmontoya44@gmail.com or 206-437-7510 to volunteer.

STEM Career Conference Research Grant

by Mary Lamo, Frances Rozner & Raquel Sanchez

Our AAUW Long Beach branch was highlighted as a Community Action Grant Fellow during a Zoom presentation for the AAUW California Fund Luncheon, held on October 24, 2020, with its presentation "Energizing Potential: The Effectiveness of AAUW Long Beach STEM Career Conference on LBUSD Middle School Girls". Topics included STEM Career Conference history, budget and program. Photos of the students and some of their comments such as "Thank you for showing me some new career choices and inspiring me to do new things" were shared. In addition the STEM Research journey, for which the grant was requested, was discussed from the critical requirements of partnering with LBUSD and a professional research firm to getting valid student data and build a reporting model.

In 2020, people learned to work outside of their normal parameters in many ways including embracing virtual meetings. As these meetings have facilitated AAUW LB to continue activities with its members, we have learned that virtual meetings give branches the opportunity to learn from one another. The AAUW OUR (Ontario-Upland-Rancho Cucamonga) Branch learned about our grant and requested AAUW LB present at their November 14, 2020 virtual program. In addition, the AAUW La Mesa-El Cajon Branch has requested AAUW LB to present at their January 16, 2021 virtual program.



These virtual meetings on the 'internet highway' have eliminated travel time and expenses; plus they allow AAUW members to continue to support the mission and to enrich members from home.

FYI from AAUW California Board

Dianne Owens, President, AAUW CA wants you to know some of the things she's looking forward to in the New Year:

- ♦ working with our new marketing consultant, Dowitcher DESIGNS, and learning how all of us can make AAUW California more visible in our golden state.
- ♦ working with our new advocacy firm, MVM Strategies, and preparing for our virtual Lobby Day in late March. I hope you will all join us that day.
- ♦ the April 17, 2021 virtual Annual AAUW CA Meeting with exciting speakers, new awards, and our Speech Trek contest.
- ♦ seeing everyone in person again in the summer or fall of 2021. The timing is still unknown, but we will all look forward to that.
- ♦ saying "Goodbye 2020"!

Have you considered using your leadership skills to advance the mission at the state level? The Nominations and Elections Committee seeks candidates for three positions on the AAUW CA Board of Directors:

- ♦ President-Elect (one-year term 2021-2022) during the second year of the president's term, followed by a two-year term (2022-2024) as president
- ♦ Chief Financial Officer (two-year term 2021-2023)
- ♦ Director (two-year term 2021-2023)

Have an idea for a project that could enhance the mission of AAUW in 2021-22? Perhaps you are already developing one. Could you use a little financial help? Applications for state funding, up to \$500, are due on March 1, 2021. Any member, branch, or AAUW affiliate may apply. For directions and application forms click here: [State Project Grant Application - AAUW California \(aauw-ca.org\)](https://www.aauw-ca.org/state-project-grant-application).

Join this January 11th webinar on "Title IX – Breaking Down Barriers 2020". Speakers include:

- ♦ Kiki Williams, Executive Director of Student Experience and Equity Compliance at San Francisco Unified School District.
- ♦ Kim Turner, Senior Staff Attorney for Legal Aid at Work. She works with the gender equity and LGBT rights program.
- ♦ Jean Reed, Co-President of Petaluma AAUW Branch. She will discuss the AAUW San Jose Sports Equity Community Project.

Register for the webinar here: [Title IX Webinar - Breaking Down Barriers - AAUW California \(aauw-ca.org\)](https://www.aauw-ca.org/title-ix-webinar-breaking-down-barriers)

On March 24, 2021, AAUW California in conjunction with our new advocacy firm, MVM Strategy Group, will be conducting a virtual Lobby Day with our legislators in Sacramento. This is a terrific opportunity for branch members to get involved in the public policy process by helping the state Public Policy (PP) Committee advance our legislative goals for 2021-22. It's also a great way to meet your local legislators and let them know how you, through AAUW, are helping their constituents in your communities. We are asking branch PP chairs to help us recruit participants. Please have interested branch members register [HERE](#) by January 8, 2021.

Finally, all participants will be given full training in a Zoom webinar on March 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Click [HERE](#) to register for "How to Talk to Your Legislators."

Important Dates:

- January 8, 2021 – Last day to register to participate in Lobby Day
- March 22, 2021 – Lobby Day training webinar
- March 24, 2021 – Lobby Day

BRANCH INTEREST GROUPS

7

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 to be passed along to the Interest Group Coordinator

Reminder: All interest group participants MUST be AAUW Long Beach members. Guests may attend a branch meeting 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.

(See COVID-19 statement from AAUW CA on page 8)



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! Contact **Lamis Hashem**, 562-795-6605



Cultural Adventures Group plans trips to museums and other points of interest, usually a mid-week tour & lunch scheduled several times a year. Contact **JoAnn Kuroda** at 562-429-6923



Great Decisions Groups meet weekly to discuss, share opinions and ideas on a critical global issues using Great Decisions materials. Contact **Rita Powell** at 562-685-2096.



International Cuisine Group dines at restaurants of different ethnicity in the local area. Car pooling optional and suggestions are welcome. Contact **Fay Denny** at 714-894-0416.



Literary Ladies Group We may meet at a park soon. The selection for January is *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. Contact **Sharon Westafer** at 562-493-4749
Keep reading!



Public Policy meetings explore, discuss, and support the active legislative issues of AAUW, underscoring our mission of promoting equity and education for all women and girls. For the next meeting by Zoom, contact **Arnedra Jordan**



Residential Rentals Discussion Group meets the 3rd Wednesday of odd months **year round** from 10:00-11:30 am. (Jan, March, May) We meet using ZOOM - it works very well. 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.

Contact a Co-Chair **Ellen Mathis** - epmathis@verizon.net /Joan Gustafson — jwg221@aol.com



Under the Umbrella Book Group meets the 3rd Saturday of the month at 2:00 pm.—Zoom pending—to read a variety of genres. Contact **Beverly Krivokapich** 562-596-1826



TRY MEETUP! Take a look and sign up to support our events.

Encourage friends to check it out!

<https://www.meetup.com/American-Association-of-University-Women-Long-Beach/>

Check out our branch website to find community events that align with our mission!

<https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/news/events/>



We hope you will join us for this branch meeting. Please RSVP using this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUudu-srDisGtcLjTOqL0kIcoFF5DKnRvj4](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUudu-srDisGtcLjTOqL0kIcoFF5DKnRvj4)

If you are unable to register through the link, please email
aauwlongbeach@gmail.com

RSVP as soon as you can to insure that the Zoom link is sent to you in time.

Important COVID-19 Reminder

AAUW CA does not sanction in-person meetings at this time nor for the foreseeable future.

AAUW's guidance is in adherence with California mandates and in the best interests of all our members. Let's remain safe today and enjoy gatherings in the future!

AAUW BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, January 9, 2021

- 9:20 am Zoom Waiting Room opens
- 9:45 am Digital Mingle in Breakout Rooms
- 10:00 am Business Meeting
- 10:30 am Program Speaker
- 12:00 am End of Meeting

Place: Your Home via Zoom

Everyone who RSVPs will receive an email with meeting details and the Zoom link.

Feel free to share the RSVP link with friends—but *not the Zoom link*. Guests will also receive a follow up email.



AAUW Long Beach Branch

Send address changes for AAUW Vantage
to P O Box 15023,
Long Beach, CA 90815

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

