



Vantage

BLM & Beyond This Month

Herlinda Chico, Program Vice President

Black or African American History Month is an annual celebration of achievements and historical contributions of the Black community. In 1915, Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and the prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). Today, the organization is known as the Association of the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). In February of 1926, the group sponsored a national Negro Week. Schools and communities were inspired to organize local celebrations which started the annual observance. Since 1976, February is designated as Black History Month. This year's theme is, "Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity".

Our program will feature two dynamic women who are breaking barriers to expand diversity and opportunity. **Dr. Sabrina Sanders** is a 20-year veteran of higher education and currently serves as the Director of Student Affairs Projects and Initiatives at the CSU Chancellor's office. Her professional expertise encompasses equity programs, assessment, leadership development, student health and psychological services, international student programs, athletic academic support services, Title IX, admissions, and student conduct. **Robin Thorne** is the founder and CEO of CTI Environmental, a company that specializes in construction management. This successful, multi-million-dollar company is based here in Long Beach where Robin is a long-time community leader. Members may remember Robin as founder of a non-profit, DemoChicks, that exposes young women to careers in general contracting and construction. To RSVP for this program, see page 8 or email aauwlombach@gmail.com.



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.

New Member Highlights

Previous Vantage issues profiled two of the seven new members who joined the branch in 2020. We are happy to highlight three members this month, and hope to shine a spotlight on the other two this spring. Our current focus is on Mia Vancil Tabayoyong, Carol Menard Fulthorp, and Nicole Gautier.

How did you get connected with AAUW Long Beach?

Mia: I was referred by a colleague at LBCC. In addition, I had worked with several branch members during LBCC's Women's History Month kickoff event, in which we had asked AAUW to be represented at our resource fair.

Carol: I feel fortunate to have been connected to AAUW through my long-time wise mentor, Higher Ed Administrator, former supervisor and wonderful family friend, Dr. Jeane Relleve Caveness.

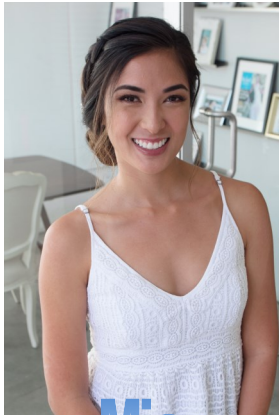
Nicole: I was introduced to AAUW when I was an undergrad at CSU Long Beach. We had a small student branch startup, so I had my first exposure to a college based leadership role as social media coordinator.

Current Position:

Mia: Disability Support Service Specialist at Long Beach City College

Carol: Project Specialist for Presidential Commissions and Initiatives, Office of the President, CSULB

Nicole: School Psychologist with Garden Grove Unified School District



Mia



Carol

What is something unique that you'd like branch members to know about you?

Mia: I have a relentless and persistent drive that has been critical in achieving my goals.

Carol: My daughters, Aleena (11), Brielle (9), husband, Keith and I are exploring the CA National and State Parks during the Summer, from Sequoia (our favorite) to Crystal Cove. We enjoy helping our daughters earn their Junior Park Ranger Badges and (of course, spotting the bears and deer!

Nicole: I have a "farmette" in my backyard where I grow raised bed vegetables, enjoy my koi pond, and enjoy my five chickens!

Favorite book or film and why?

Mia: "Roman Holiday". I absolutely love and idolize Audrey Hepburn. She radiates sophistication, intelligence, and beauty (both inner and outer). In addition to my adoration for Audrey Hepburn, I sincerely appreciate how the film depicts the development of a romantic relationship between two people from polar opposite worlds in the most realistic sense that doesn't always have the happy Hollywood ending.

Carol: My last books read were from graduate school, and I don't watch much films/movies [due to] multiple responsibilities... Therefore, I provide another favorite: Favorite Family Destination: Puerto Vallarta and Mascota, Jalisco, Mexico.

Nicole: As a true '90s child my favorite film is *Hocus Pocus*. Halloween is my favorite holiday and I LOVE decorating my house for the fall season, wearing something festive, and watch *Hocus Pocus* with all of my decor aglow. It's a family tradition I enjoyed as a child that I now share with my own little one.

Other comments:

Carol: I look forward to supporting the mission and important service/work of AAUW-LB Branch in empowering and helping to provide educational opportunities/STEM programs to girls and women. Thank you!

Nicole: Thank you for the warm welcome to the branch!



Nicole

News from AAUW National

AAUW National Board of Directors Seeks Comments on Eliminating Degree Requirement for Membership

AAUW National Board President Julie T. Brown invited AAUW members to submit comments by February 5th regarding the proposal to eliminate degree requirements for membership. Below is the text of the Board of Directors' statement on open membership and the timeline for consideration of this issue including the duration of the voting period (note February 5th comment deadline):

- ◆ The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW's bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to the educational attainment of all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.
- ◆ Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission, and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.
- ◆ Members can comment on the proposed amendment through February 5, 2021 5:00 PM ET. Voting will open on April 7, 2021 and close May 17, 2021 5:00 PM ET.
- ◆ We encourage respectful debate that has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community. [ADD A COMMENT](#) to let the AAUW Board know of your thoughts on this proposal and exercise your vote this spring. **Key Dates:**

February 5, 2021- Comments submitted by 5:00 pm ET will be reviewed by the Board of Directors prior to their final vote on the bylaws amendment

April 7, 2021 - Voting opens

May 17, 2021 - Voting closes at 5:00 pm ET

*Reference for Board of Directors' statement

[Open Membership Toolkit – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)



Calendar Dates to Note

Sat., Jan. 25	Branch Board Meeting
Sat., Feb. 6	Branch Meeting
Sat., Mar. 6	Branch Meeting
Mon., Mar. 15	Branch Board Meeting
Thurs., April 8	Branch Meeting (eve)
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

Advertise in the Vantage!

Our AAUW Long Beach Vantage is now open for business card size advertisements.

No political advertisements accepted.

Low introductory rate of \$10 a month—5 months for \$45. Next fiscal year, 10 issues September to June will be \$100 for the year or \$15 a month. If interested, please send a check made payable to AAUW Long Beach and a .JPEG of the business card to me, Pat Ferrer, 365 Ultimo Ave, Long Beach, CA 90814. Questions? Please email me at paferer@verizon.net.

Branch Business

Voted on at meeting on January 9, 2021—ByLaws Amendment.

At the request of the Executive Committee, Denise Montoya moved 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.

The motion was passed by 31 (97%) affirmative votes with 1 (3%) abstaining vote.

Public Policy

by Arnedra Jordan, Public Policy Director



The AAUW Long Beach Branch Public Policy Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month. A Zoom link will be sent out one week prior to meeting. For more information contact Arnedra Jordan at ajordan6@my.keller.edu or at (310) 722-6594.

Human Trafficking

by Kit Hein, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

January 11, 2021 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. AAUW California supports efforts to combat Human Trafficking, as noted in our Public Policy Priorities:

“Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including ...human trafficking...in homes, schools, workplaces and communities...”

Human Trafficking is the third largest organized criminal activity in the world. Human Trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, with an estimated number of victims in the millions. Whether for labor or sex, men, women, and children are manipulated through force, fraud and coercion.

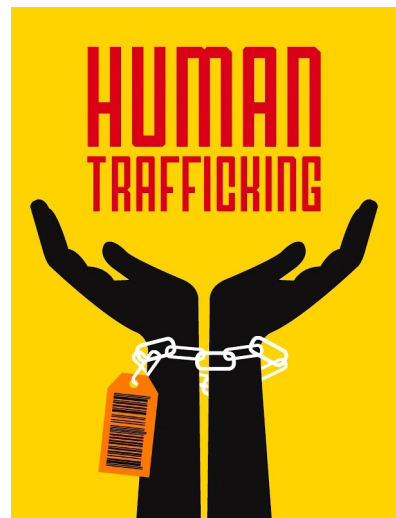
Research shows that people of color, especially the Black community, are more likely to experience some form of sex trafficking. Racial and economic biases drive both social and legal presumptions of “victims” having chosen their situation.

Law enforcement efforts against human trafficking are stronger today than in 2017, but still inadequate. Globally, definitions of human trafficking vary from country to country. Even using the term “slavery” is met with opposition in cases of forced marriages and cross border smuggling.

In California, legislation in the past few years includes support for victims, updating school health curriculum, and addressing hospitality industry training. But legislation is not the key unless the public is educated as to the enormity of the issues, both locally and globally.

Local branches of AAUW continue to provide community awareness events to educate the public. Please contact Santa Cruz County Branch to learn more.

Access the branch website <https://santacruz-ca.aauw.net/> for more information.



AAUW Response to Attack on Capitol

from C.E.O. Kim Churches' January 11, 2021 email

On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, we watched as the President of the United States incited a mob to march on the Capitol to attempt to overturn the results of an election he lost eight weeks ago. We watched in horror as that mob of white nationalists stormed the U.S. Capitol building. And we watched as they tried, and failed, to subvert our democracy, leaving a trail of wreckage and terror in their wake.

This was not the beginning. This was an inflection point in years of hate and division incited by a President who does not care about our country or its people, but only about himself. He has stoked racism, sexism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, ableism, xenophobia, toxic masculinity, and more — allowing those who share his beliefs to come out in the open and act without fear of repercussions and wreak havoc on the seat of democracy. The failed insurrection at the Capitol this week was shocking, but not without warning.

We come together today as a community of multi-racial, multi-generational, differently-classed gender justice leaders, who represent women, girls and gender nonconforming people from every corner of this nation, united in condemnation of these unconscionable actions. Together, we demand that our country's leaders uphold their Constitutional responsibilities and remove President Trump from office immediately. He must be held accountable. He has shown that he is an imminent threat to all of our communities, our nation and our very democracy. We cannot risk one more day under this President.

Now is the time for our leaders to do what is right and fulfill your obligation to the American people who elected you. The House of Representatives has committed to beginning impeachment proceedings, and the Senate must show up with a unified voice to swiftly do the same. If you fail to condemn white nationalists' violent extremism and hold the President accountable for his actions, you are neglecting your basic responsibility to serve the American people. Vice President Pence, members of the Cabinet, and Members of Congress, you each swore to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States." This is the moment for which that oath was written. And if you fail to protect this country, women and girls across this country will not forget.

In solidarity,
Kimberly Churches
Chief Executive Officer



The AAUW California Board of Directors Statement

We encourage members to contact your representatives to demand immediate action be taken to hold the president accountable for his role in inciting this insurrection. And if you are in the district of one of his enablers:

Congressmen Ken Calvert (42nd Dist), Mike Garcia (25th Dist), Darrell Issa (50th Dist), Doug La Malfa (1st Dist), House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (23rd Dist), Devin Nunes (22nd Dist) and Jay Obernolte (8th Dist).

Please let them know that you condemn their complicity and will not tolerate continued sanctioning of or participation in the spread of misinformation.

2021 Scholarship Fundraising Event



The 2021 Scholarship Fundraising event, our annual Author's Luncheon, is scheduled for Saturday, April 24th. Mystery author, Bonnie MacBird, is an American writer, actress, playwright, screenwriter, and producer. She is the original writer of the science fiction film *Tron*.

MacBird is a native of San Francisco, California and graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in music and a master's degree in film. She is Harper-Collins' *Designated Sherlockian Writer*. Her first full length Holmes adventure is entitled, *ART IN THE BLOOD*, and it has been followed by 3 more mysteries.

The AAUW branch committee is working diligently to provide an interesting and fun afternoon that will not only feature the author, but also a silent auction and book sale.

Tickets will be \$25 and may be purchased after March 14 via check or online through PayPal or Zelle. More information will follow.

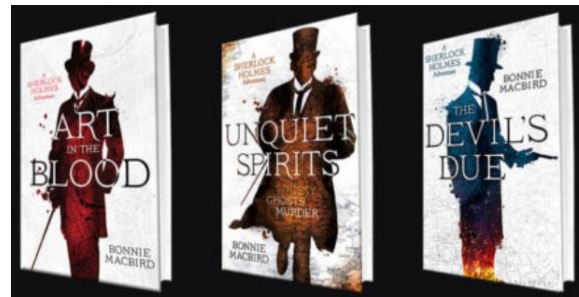
SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED FOR AUTHOR'S DAY LUNCHEON

We are getting ready to have Long Beach Branch's first silent auction, April 24th! We are asking for donations of gift cards and gift certificates— from restaurants, interesting tours, theatre tickets and department stores. Don't be shy about asking for items from favorite stores you frequent. Other suggestions are gift items, elegant purses, wine and tech gadgets. Please mail gift cards and certificates to JoAnn

Kuroda at 5991 E Belen Street, Long Beach, CA 90815

Please keep special donated items in your home until closer to the event date, but send a note to confirm the offer.

JoAnn Kuroda, Author's Day Luncheon Committee Member



Membership Counts

by Dee Dee Catalano and Denise Montoya

Featuring New Members! Here's a new item we are trying out!

We didn't have the usual opportunities in 2020 to let everyone get to know New Members. We're now asking for their permission to share a little bit about each one in an issue of the Vantage newsletter using a short questionnaire and a picture! See page 2!

The Buddy Program was developed by the AAUW – Long Beach Branch Membership Committee in the summer of 2018. 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. Can you help out?

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.



The image shows a screenshot of a form titled "New Member Profile for Vantage". At the top, there is a header image showing a desk with a notepad, a pen, and a cup of coffee. Below the header, the text reads: "We would like to include brief profiles of our newest members in the upcoming issue(s) of the Vantage newsletter. Please give us permission to include you by filling out the questions below and responding by the deadline listed at the end of this survey." There is a red asterisk and the word "Required" below this text. The form has two input fields: "Name *" and "Your address".

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 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! Pending Zoom. 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 February is *The Dakota Winters* by Tom Barbash. 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. (March, May) We meet on 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



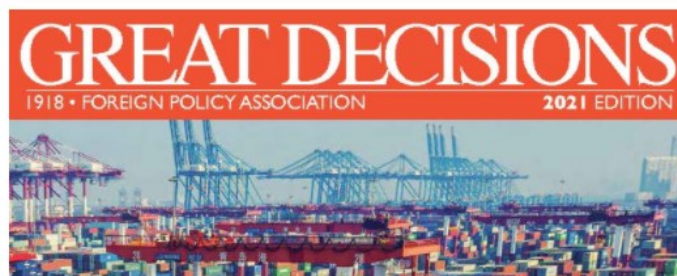
TRY MEETUP! Take a look and sign up to support our events.

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/join/923E0WEZkcXQ1ZygKCtD>

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, February 6, 2021

- 9:30 am Digital Mingle
- 10:00 am Branch Meeting
- 11:00 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

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