



Vantage

AAPI Awareness Month

Stelet Kim & Jeane Relleve Caveness, Ph.D.

In celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we are highlighting some amazing women. We recognize that the vast groupings of "Asian American" and "AAPI" can be too encompassing and problematic, leading to hidden inequities. That said, we call your attention to these luminaries.

Kalpana Chawla¹ Born in Karnal, India, in 1961, Chawla was the youngest of four children. Her first name Kalpana means "idea" or "imagination." She earned an aeronautical engineering degree before immigrating to the U.S. and becoming a naturalized citizen in the 1980s. She achieved a doctorate in aerospace engineering from the U. of Colorado in 1988, and began working at NASA's Ames Research Center on power-lift computational fluid dynamics. In 1994, Chawla was selected as an astronaut candidate. Her first space voyage was in 1997 aboard space shuttle Columbia as a mission specialist.



In 2003, Chawla took her second voyage into space. But when the Challenger returned to Earth on February 1, 2003, the shuttle disintegrated upon re-entry. Tragically, the entire crew of seven, including Chawla, was killed. Chawla was quoted as saying, "When you look at the stars and the galaxy, you feel that you are not just from any particular piece of land, but from the solar system."

Grace Lee Boggs Grace Lee was born in Rhode Island in 1915, the daughter of Chinese immigrants. She studied at Barnard College and Bryn Mawr, receiving her Ph.D. in Philosophy in 1940. As an activist in Chicago, Lee joined the movement for tenants' rights and then the Workers Party. In 1953, Lee married Black auto worker and activist James Boggs and moved to Detroit. They believed that positive social change can happen in small groups.² Lee Boggs made significant positive contributions to the lived experiences of women, workers, and the Black community. She and her husband founded Detroit Summer in 1992, creating a multi-racial, inter-generational collective to rebuild Detroit.



While James Boggs passed away in 1993 (and Grace Lee Boggs in 2015), Detroit Summer lives on as a collection of efforts to engage with and help vulnerable populations in Detroit.³ Lee Boggs remained much in demand as a public speaker even through her 100th year of life. Her many honors include lifetime achievement awards from the Detroit City Council, Anti-

Defamation League, Michigan Coalition for Human Rights, and a place in both the National Women's Hall of Fame and Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. She is the subject of a Peabody Award-winning documentary, *American Revolution: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs*, directed by L.A. filmmaker Grace Lee.⁴

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.

EVERY DAY
MAY NOT BE
GOOD...
BUT THERE IS
SOMETHING
GOOD IN
EVERY DAY.

More from the Co-Presidents

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

Patsy Takemoto Mink Born in 1927 in Paia, Hawaii, Patsy Mink was a high school valedictorian. However, after facing racial discrimination and working to eliminate segregation at the U. of Nebraska (where students of color were prohibited from living in the same dorms as white students), she ultimately left college. She eventually earned undergraduate degrees in zoology and chemistry at U. of Hawaii at Manoa.⁵

After graduating from the U. of Chicago Law School,⁶ Mink was the first Japanese-American woman to practice law in Hawaii and the first Asian American woman to serve in the U.S. Congress.⁷ Her tenure in the House of Representatives lasted 12 years, and she is best known to us as one of the primary authors and sponsors of Title IX which was enacted into federal law on June 23, 1972. In 1974, she was able to pass the Women's Educational Equity Act to promote gender equality in schools. Upon Rep. Mink's death in 2002, Title IX became known as the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act. Something she wrote in a 1977 campaign leaflet reveals her unshakeable core: "I have been guided by a single principle: That everyone—rich or poor, powerful or weak—should get fair and equal treatment from government." Representative Mink was a titan for gender equality and social justice. In June 2022 we will celebrate 50 years of Title IX.



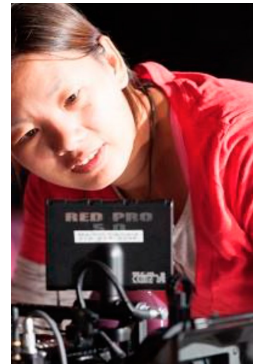
Amanda Nguyen⁸ Amanda Nguyen is the daughter of Vietnamese refugees and grew up in Corona, CA. She was a college student at Harvard in 2013 when she was raped. She was informed that there was a 15 year statute of limitations for rape in Massachusetts. Not feeling prepared or equipped to engage in a trial that could last years, she declined to press charges immediately, thinking she had time. She later learned that her rape kit was on the verge of destruction after only six months of retention and she was not instructed on how to file an extension. She set out to found [Rise](#), a national nonprofit aimed at protecting civil rights (thus far helping pass 33 laws).

Nguyen and Rise helped draft the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights. The legislation was introduced by U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) in February 2016 and unanimously passed through the U.S. Congress—in only seven months—and signed into law October 2016 by President Obama. The new law includes the right to have evidence of a rape kit preserved without charge for the duration of the statute of limitations. Amanda's start in public service began at NASA headquarters. She also held several roles during the Obama Administration including Deputy White House Liaison at the U.S. Department of State. Now 30 years old, she is pioneering a UN Resolution that would enshrine survivors' rights as fundamental human rights all over the globe. She also still hopes to go into space.



Caylee So⁹ Caylee So was born in a refugee camp in Thailand in 1981, just after her parents' escape from the reign of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. When she was three years old, her family immigrated to the U.S. She grew up in Northern Virginia and after high school, served in the Virginia Army National Guard for eight years. After a stint at community college, she transferred to George Mason University pursuing a degree in creative writing.

In 2011, Caylee was awarded the Zonta's Women in Film grant for Most Promising Young Filmmaker. In 2012 Caylee received her MFA in Film Production at Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, having won the Best Picture and Best Director at her school's Cecil Awards. She is also the winner of the Director's Guild of America's 18th Annual Best Female Student Director award. She is the cofounder of the Cambodia Town Film Festival in L B (2021 will be the 9th annual), Co-Founder of Innovision Pictures, and the LA County "Woman of the Year" Award in 2017. Her feature film "In The Life of Music" was released in 2018 and was selected as the Cambodian entry for the [Best International Feature Film](#) at the [92nd Academy Awards](#).



References: 1 [Kalpana Chawla: Biography & Columbia Disaster | Space](#)

2 [Americans Who Tell the Truth](#)

3 [Navigating the Pacific: 20th Century Afro-Asian Relations](#)

4 <https://www.boggsschool.org/grace-and-jimmy>

5 <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/patsy-mink>

6 ibid

7 [Patsy Mink | National Women's History Museum](#)

8 [Skoll | Amanda Nguyen](#)

9 [Caylee So – BeNorth Films](#)

Branch Business March 15th Board Meeting

Motion by Finance Committee: CD March 2021 Rescind – Linda Patten: I move to rescind the motion approved by the Executive Committee on February 22, 2021 which stated: The Finance Committee moves to transfer the money from the Bank of America Building Fund #1 Certificate of Deposit # 8544 at 2601 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach to Citi Bank, located at 5525 Carson Street, Lakewood at the five (5) month rate of 0.25%. At the end of the five-month rate period we hope interest rates are more advantageous to the Branch.

The motion was seconded by Patricia Ferrer. It passed 11-0-0 by roll call vote.

Linda explained the reason for the motion was because the CD offer was no longer available.

Motion by Finance Committee: Citibank Small Business Checking – Linda Patten: The Finance Committee proposes to deposit \$100,000.00 (\$93,000.00 proceeds from the Building Fund #1 and \$7,000.00 from the STEM Fund) to Citibank N.A, at 5525 E. Carson Street, Lakewood, CA 90713. This transaction will fulfill the Terms and Conditions of a small business checking account offer and earn \$1,500.00 over a period of three months. When the bonus is paid, \$94,000.00 will be paid to the Building Fund and \$7,500.00 will be paid to the STEM Fund. Both funds are part of the Branch's Bank of America checking account.

No second was required. It passed 10-0-1 by roll call vote.

Motion by AAUW Fund Committee regarding AAUW Fund Account – Barbara Vangsness: I move that we close the Branch AAUW Fund Account # ending -2528, located at U.S. Bank, 5767 Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach, CA 90803 which contains at least \$5,000.00 and donate the entire amount to AAUW National Fund: National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) scholarships.

No second required. It passed 10-1-0 by roll call vote.

Motion by AAUW Fund Committee regarding Policies and Procedures, Section 6 – Barbara Vangsness: I move that Section 6 of the Policies and Procedures be deleted.

The vote on the motion was postponed so it could be rewritten to show the exact text to be deleted.

Discussion revolved about losing the history of Branch endowments, the appropriateness of Section 6 which is not written as a policy or procedure. One suggestion was to rewrite Section 6 as a policy which requires the listing in the Yearbook. It was also noted that the Branch endowments are also listed on page 11 of the Yearbook.

*** Correction to April Motion (name of Motion submitter omitted)

Motion to Update Audit Chair – was made by Pat Ferrer (see the April Vantage)

Branch Business - Branch meeting April 8, 2021

Motion to Elect the 2021-2022 Slate of Officers – Linda Silver:

I move that the 2021-22 Slate of Officers be elected:

Co-Presidents:	Ginny Baxter and Charlotte Joseph
VP President-Elect:	vacant
Co-Program VPs:	Herlinda Chico and Dee Dee Catalano
Membership VP:	Carol Clanton
Fund VP:	Linda Westman
Investment VP:	Linda Patten
Secretary:	Dawn Hass

All candidates will serve a one-year term except for the Investments Vice President who will serve a two-year term ending June 30, 2023. Co-President Jeane Caveness explained and requested election by acclamation. The slate was approved by acclamation.

American Fellows Fund

Barbara Vangsness, AAUW Fund VP

The Long Beach AAUW supports and celebrates these endowment honorees. Career Development Grants provide funding to women who hold a bachelor's degree and are preparing to advance or change careers or re-enter the workforce in education, health and medical sciences, or social sciences. Primary consideration is given to women of color and women pursuing their first advanced degree or credentials in nontraditional fields. April's Fellows, Karen Waters and Feather Ives are sponsored by the Long Beach and Joyce E. Clark Endowments, respectively.

Name: Karen Waters

Award Year: 2020-21 Award: Career Development Grant

Institution: Glendale Community College Location: Glendale, California

Discipline: Engineering - Aeronautical and Astronomical

Degree and Specialization: M.A.T., Aviation

Karen Waters is a former journalist whose beat was institutional finance. She worked for Morningstar as an editor and subsequently was directory editor of Pensions and Investments newspaper. She currently works as a director of human resources. Waters aspires to a career in aviation as a pilot. She will use her skills to unify the goals of diversity, equity and inclusion within the aviation community, particularly among black female pilots.



Name: Feather Ives

Award Year: 2020-21 Award: Career Development Grant

Institution: University of Nevada, Reno Location: Reno, Nevada

Discipline: Health and Medical Sciences

Degree and Specialization: M.P.H., Public Health

Feather Ives transitioned to a career in science in 2016 through a STEM career education program at a community college. She is now a faculty member in that program and helps students build their STEM careers. She is earning a master of public health and is implementing a college food-security resources program for The Richmond Promise. She seeks to improve health outcomes for college students by reducing inequities and ensuring access to basic needs.



From the AAUW.org website and newsletter

Our Proud Legacy

For nearly 140 years, AAUW has been helping women pursue higher education, tracing back to a time when few women had that opportunity. Women's history month is the perfect time to learn more about our [funding recipients](#), some of the most influential voices of the past two centuries.

Congrats to a World-Changing Woman

And, in more recent history, 1977-78 AAUW International Fellow [Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala](#) in February became the first African and the first woman to lead the World Trade Organization. We couldn't be more proud!

New Resource—Browse Our Webinars

It's been nearly a year since we started offering regular webinars with compelling content ranging from professional development to social justice to advocacy and more.

[Peruse recent offerings](#) or browse by topic on our new archive page.



The Public Policy Team meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 12:00 p.m. For any questions, please email Arnedra Jordan at ajordan6@my.keller.edu. Link is emailed the Sunday before the meeting.

Thanks for a Successful Lobby Day!

AAUW California's first attempt at a virtual Lobby Day with the California Legislature presented many challenges, such as contacting dozens of legislators' offices, registering and communicating with members wishing to participate, analyzing legislation to discuss...but the Public Policy Team made it happen successfully!

First and foremost we thank our lobbyist, Kathy Van Osten who, with help from her assistant Jennifer, made all the appointments with legislators. Kathy also arranged for our key opening speakers, Assembly Member Christina Garcia, Chair of the Women's Legislative Caucus (who had a bit of a delay as her bill was being heard in a committee), and Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Reyes, author of AB 92, which we are co-sponsoring. Hearing from these two prominent legislators was empowering and it was also significant for them to learn about AAUW and our Public Policy Priorities.

After the opening session, 30 teams of 3 or 4 AAUW members connected with individual legislators or their staff. Thanks to our Team Leaders, who prepared their teams for their meetings! Every effort was made for members to meet with their Assembly Member or Senator, with some teams having as many as 3 meetings during the day. In these meetings, members communicated information about AAUW CA, their branches and also the three bills which are high priority for AAUW in the current session.

AB 92 Assembly Member Reyes *Child Care Family Fees*

SB 62 Senator Durazo *Garment Worker Protection Act*

AB 373 Assembly Member Min *Consumer Debt: Economic Abuse*

The results of these meetings are important in several ways. Sixty legislators or their staff now know about AAUW and our commitment to improve the lives of women and girls in California. They'll remember us when we contact them again as our bills move through the legislative process. Several legislative staffers asked for more information about becoming members! Co-Chairs Kathi Harper and Sue Miller met with members of Governor Newsom's staff, who are influential in assisting the Governor in his decisions about signing or vetoing bills, and with Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins staff. Kathi and Sue also met with Assembly Member Reyes who is ecstatic that we are co-sponsoring AB 92! She made a point of telling us that AAUW IS very well known and respected in Sacramento! All of this will enable our lobbyist to better connect with legislators as our bills move through the legislative process from now through September. Thanks to all of you who participated! Hopefully we can do this in person in 2022!

FYI from AAUW CA Board


- The voting period for AAUW CA election is April 16th-May 7th. Your vote in this year's annual state election will impact who represents you on the Board of Directors (three positions to fill; one is contested), Public Policy Priorities for 2021-2023, and changes to the bylaws.
- Prior to our March 24th Lobby Day, Public Policy Committee completed its review of the bills for this legislative season. The 2020-21 Bill Tracker can now be found on the AAUW CA website under Public Policy/Legislative Advocacy/Bill Tracking.
- "In November 1881, seventeen women gathered at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to jointly consider their future prospects and form a national organization of female college graduates." From *Degrees of Equality, AAUW and the Challenge of 20th Century Feminism* by Susan Levine. Given AAUW California's 22-year emphasis on STEM, and given how rare women in STEM were in 1881, perhaps this could be a book club selection?

2021 Scholarship Fundraising Event

Help Raise Consciences & Scholarship Money

March through June
10% OF BOOK SALES DONATED TO
AAUW SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*Just purchase one or all of the
latest books written by
Long Beach feminist and historian,
Gerrie Schipske*



**MARKABLE WOMEN
OF LONG BEACH**

*The Case
of the
Missing
Librarian*

www.longbeachhistory.com

**Enjoy a Virtual conversation with
Author Bonnie Mac Bird and support the
Scholarship Fund at the
SILENT AUCTION**

You can access the list of auction items through
the link at [https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/news/
branch-events/](https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/news/branch-events/)

For each item, there is a "Buy it Now"
price. TEXT your bid (or call) with the prize # and
amount to Ginny Baxter's cell 562-477-0849
between Thursday and Saturday at 9:00 am.
Call me at 562-429-6923 if you need help.

JoAnn Kuroda,
Author's Day Committee

TECH TREK 2021 —Virtual Version

As a result of concerns regarding COVID-19, AAUW California has developed a virtual Tech Trek program for the 2021 season. Virtual Tech Trek is designed to provide campers with exposure to computer science and engineering, along with workshops designed to explore individual STEM specialties using a hands-on approach. Trained instructors and coaching staff, including Tech Trek alumnae, work alongside credentialed teachers and women in STEM-related careers.



The week-long virtual camp includes students who were selected to attend in 2020 as well as new applicants from 2021. This year, AAUW Long Beach has six highly-recommended students applying for the virtual program; five students from Hamilton Middle School and one from Muir Academy.

Many hours of planning were involved in making the virtual program exciting. This year's camp is centered on a morning project-based robotics/engineering/coding class that meets daily and results in a personalized creation by week's end. After lunch, the campers hear from inspirational women for an hour, then participate in a 90-minute hands-on STEM workshop to encourage fun while learning. They can return for optional evening workshops and social activities.

BRANCH INTEREST GROUPS

7

Joining an AAUW members-only interest group (or many) is a great way to get to know other members. 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 are meeting using Zoom for now. The book reading for May is *The Giver of Stars* by JoJo Moyes Keep reading! Contact **Sharon Westafer** at 562-493-4749



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 using Zoom (May) 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. Contact **Ellen Mathis** - epmathis@verizon.net or Joan Gustafson — jwg221@aol.com



Under the Umbrella Book Group meets the 3rd Saturday of the month at 2:00 pm.—using Zoom—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/>

Calendar Dates to Note

May	No Branch Meeting
Mon., May 17	Joint Board Meeting—Incoming & Outgoing Officers
Sat., June 5	Branch Meeting & New Officer Installation

Contact Us aauwlongbeach@gmail.com

Website: LongBeach-ca.aauw.net

www.facebook.com/auwlongbeachca

For Vantage info: **Rebecca Low** rlow1@hotmail.com



We look forward to seeing you at the Author's Day zoom event and the June Branch meeting. Reservation information to be available in late May.

Questions? Contact us through the link - please email us aauwlolongbeach@gmail.com

For our next meetings—RSVP as soon as you can to ensure that the Zoom link is sent to you in time.

AAUW BRANCH MEETING

Next meeting will be June 5

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.

Important COVID-19 Reminder

AAUW CA has advised that all branches follow their county health department guidelines regarding in-person meetings. President Dianne Owens cautions that AAUW insurance probably will not cover COVID-related illness. At this time, AAUW LB will continue virtual meetings. Stand by for further updates after June 1, 2021.



AAUW Long Beach Branch

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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

