



Vantage

A Year for the History Books

Dear Members,



Co-Presidents Jeane Caveness and Stelet Kim

As Long Beach enters the Yellow Tier and we approach month 15 of the pandemic, how are you feeling? Weary & wary? Eager to travel and gather with friends and family? Wanting to hug everyone you meet? We share those feelings. And as we approach the end of our term as Pandemic (Co-) Presidents, we want to celebrate with you the measurable successes resulting from our 2020-2021 strategic plan:

- To advance equity for women & girls in our community, two new projects were just approved by the Board of Directors! GovTrek for high schoolers and a Career Development Workshop focused on professionals with 5-10 years of work experience
- To strengthen branch governance and sustainability, we conducted a thorough audit and updating of board leadership position descriptions
- To understand the characteristics of our membership, we administered a member survey and analyzed results, providing branch leadership with much data to help inform our decisions and priorities. Kudos to the collaborative efforts of the Membership Committee and Diversity & Inclusion for developing the survey.
- To improve technology use, our ad hoc Zoom Committee helped us quickly convert to an all-virtual setting last March and investigate ways to provide closed captioning for more inclusive meetings. Special thanks to our ad hoc Zoom Manager Tobi Balma, who continually endeavored to learn new skills in support of our branch's success.

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.



A Yearcontinued

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

- To deepen and widen our understanding of diversity & inclusion (D&I), we identified & shared resources on diversity and anti-racism and discussed the AAUW membership degree requirement and its implications on diversity & equity. Our utmost gratitude to: Mary Ann Takemoto, who initiated the D&I Committee, and to the committee who led us in self-reflection on our road to intentional inclusion and active anti-racism; Membership VP Dee Dee Catalano and Committee for thoughtfully aligning membership growth strategies with our desire for our branch to reflect the diversity of Long Beach; to Program VP Herlinda Chico, who underscored the importance of diverse voices by presenting a year of outstanding, thought-provoking programs emphasizing equity and civic participation.
- To put our money where our mouths are, we, thanks to Herlinda Chico and several members' generosity, now have a fund for fully or partially subsidized membership for prospective members whose circumstances prevent being able to pay for membership dues
- To improve branch & program visibility, a roadmap was developed for improving our external partnerships and communications thanks to our Communications Coordinator Terri Armstrong
- To answer national AAUW's challenge to all branches, we applied for the Five-Star Award Program and anticipate a positive response in June
- To address the interests and needs of the newest generations of our members (Millennials and Generation Xers), formation of a new interest group has begun

We accomplished a lot in a most challenging year - and of course, as always, there is still much to address. Our hope is that AAUW as a national organization will evolve in the ways that welcomes ALL women - and men - into our movement. We hope that our branch will continue to find active, tangible ways to achieve gender equity for women & girls in our community. And we hope that each of us will resolve to do what we can to re-examine our beliefs and to dismantle systemic barriers to true equity in our society, gender and beyond.

Thank you all for your support, flexibility, and creativity this year. We are thrilled to pass the torch to Co-Presidents Ginny Baxter & Charlotte Joseph, who have exciting plans for the near future, including a hybrid meeting model to keep inclusion at the forefront. Join us on Saturday, June 5, 2021 for our final meeting of the year and installation of new officers.

Signing off in appreciation and solidarity,

Stelet Kim & Jeane Relleve Caveness, Ph.D.
AAUW Long Beach Branch Co-Presidents



New Co-Presidents Ginny Baxter & Charlotte Joseph



American Fellows Fund

Barbara Vangsness, AAUW Fund VP

The Long Beach AAUW supports and celebrates these endowment honorees. Primary consideration is given to women of color and women pursuing their first advanced degree or credentials in nontraditional fields. This month's Fellows are sponsored by the Anna Townsend, Connie Inskeep, and Ethel Black Endowments, respectively.

International Fellowship:

Name: [Esther Ajayi-Lowo](#)

Award Year: 2020-21

Award: International Fellowship

Citizenship: Nigeria

Institution: Texas Woman's University

Location: Denton, Texas

Discipline: Women's studies

Degree and Specialization: Ph.D., Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies

Esther Ajayi-Lowo is passionate about birth and reproductive justice. Her dissertation explores the significance of traditional birth attendants and women's birthing standpoints for improving maternal health and reducing maternal mortality in Nigeria. She has advocated for women's rights, human rights, and development in Nigeria before commencing her Ph.D. program. Ajayi-Lowo initiated and coordinates Omoge Maktown, a platform for mentoring girls and young women in Makoko, a low-income community in Lagos, Nigeria, where she grew up.

Sponsor: Anna Townsend



Career Development Grants:

Name: [Denise Mitchell](#)

Award Year: 2020-21

Award: Career Development Grant

Institution: University of California, Riverside

Location: Riverside, California

Discipline: Biology

Degree and Specialization: M.S., Botany & Plant Sciences

As a veteran science educator, Denise Mitchell wishes to expand her expertise by diving into meaningful plant ecophysiology research aimed at understanding the strategies plants employ to tolerate drought and heat across ecosystems. With a sound knowledge base and university ties established, she will then create an engaging plant ecology course for high-school students, with the goal of providing the necessary key instruction in relevant environmental-science topics amid today's critically changing climate.

Sponsor: Connie Inskeep



Name: [Tracey Quezada](#)

Award Year: 2020-21

Award: Career Development Grant

Institution: University of California, Berkeley

Location: Berkeley, California

Discipline: Communications

Degree and Specialization: M.J., Journalism

Tracey Quezada is a documentary filmmaker and journalist. She has produced and edited documentaries that address the school-to-prison pipeline, immigration and race in America. Her current documentary examines one of the most taboo issues of our time—child sexual abuse—an issue that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control has called a “public health crisis.” Her research investigates the fundamental systemic and structural issues that contribute to society's failure to grapple with intergenerational sexual abuse.

Sponsor: Ethel Black





Addressing Discrimination against Black Transgender and Gender Non-conforming People

Archana Maniar, AAUW California Public Policy Committee Member

AAUW California supports “freedom in definition of self-identity” as critical to ensuring justice for a diverse and inclusive society. One group that is consistently denied this freedom is black transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Over the past several years, increasing attention has been focused on the multitude of ways in which these individuals encounter marginalization and discrimination. A recent study by the National Center for Transgender Equality addressed these forms of discrimination through the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. The study highlighted a variety of economic, safety, and physical and mental health challenges faced by transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Black transgender people had unemployment rates four times the rate of the general population and twice the rate of transgender people at large. A startling 41% of black transgender or gender non-conforming individuals said they had experienced being unsheltered. Black transgender individuals suffered extreme poverty at a rate of 31% which is twice that of transgender individuals of all races and eight times the general US population. Furthermore, 50% of black respondents who attended school while expressing their transgender identity or gender non-conformity reported harassment in the survey. Nearly half of black respondents to the survey had attempted to commit suicide and more than 20% were living with HIV compared to 0.60% of the general population. The findings highlight the profound challenges faced by black transgender and gender non-conforming individuals and point to the need for social justice advocates and government officials to address the intersection between race and gender identity to assure equity of transgender or gender non-conforming citizens.

AAUW members can address the challenges faced by black transgender and gender non-conforming individuals by advocating for legislation that assures an even playing field and addresses the unique housing and healthcare challenges faced by this population. These will help us achieve AAUW-California’s public policy goals of equality, inclusiveness and financial security for all women.



<https://www.thetaskforce.org/new-analysis-shows-startling-levels-of-discrimination-against-black-transgender-people>

2021-2022 Proposed Secretary Candidate

Anne Supple is the proposed 2021-2022 Secretary candidate. Anne will be voted on at the June meeting to be held on June 5, 2021. We will be taking nominations from the floor prior to the vote. You can also contact anyone on the Nominating committee: Deloris Mayuga, Ginny Baxter, Dawn Hass, Dee Dee Catalano, Denise Montoya, Julie Taboada or me if you would like to nominate someone other than Anne.

Linda Silver, Nominating Committee Chair



The following motions were presented at the May 17, 2021 Board of Directors meeting:

1. Motion to Delete Entire Policies & Procedures Section 6
Barbara Vangsness for AAUW Fund Committee
2. Motion to Rescind Motion to Delete Entire Policies & Procedures Section 6
3. Motion to Delete Entire Policies & Procedures Section 6 and replace with New Language
Carol Llewellyn
4. Motion to Approve New Special Project Gov Trek - Arnedra Jordan
5. Motion to Approve Career Development Workshop - Stelet Kim
6. Motion to Approve Changes to Policies & Procedures (5. Budget, 13. Duties of Appointed Officers, a. Communication Director, iii + Standing Rules 2. Budget) Pat Ferrer for Budget Committee
7. Motion to Approve Changes to Policies & Procedures (5. Budget, 8. AAUW Long Beach Branch Endowment Fund(s), 16. Duties of Administrative Chairs + Standing Rules 2. Budget)
Pat Ferrer for Budget Committee
8. Motion to Approve the proposed AAUW Long Beach FY 2021/2022 Budget for vote by members at the June branch meeting - Pat Ferrer for Budget Committee
9. Motion to approve withdrawal of gross earnings for FYE 6/30/2020, \$6,347.46 (interests, dividends, capital gains) from the Endowment Fund - Pat Ferrer for Budget Committee
10. Motion to fund with Endowment Fund earnings Scholarship Fund and new special projects if approved as new projects by the board - Pat Ferrer for Budget Committee

For full text of motions, addenda, proposals, and voting results, please see attachment accompanying the June Vantage.

The following motions are from Executive Committee Meeting April 19, 2021

1. Motion to Approve Updated Officer Job Descriptions - Jeane Caveness: I move the Board accept the updated job descriptions, as attached, for the following elected officers: AAUW Fund Vice President, Membership Vice President, Program Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President for Investments. The motion was seconded by Stelet Kim. It passed in an online vote 11-0-2 which was completed on April 15, 2021.
2. Motion to Present Honorarium to Bonnie MacBird - Ginny Baxter: I move that a \$50 gift card be purchased from the proceeds of the scholarship event to be presented to the speaker, Bonnie MacBird. The motion was seconded by Linda Patten. Passed 7-0-0.
3. Motion to Allocate \$125 for NCCWSL by Branch Liaison to CSULB PGSW - Carolyn Eggleston:
I move that the amount of \$125 be allocated from the Reserve Fund to support one CSU Long Beach student to attend the National Conference of Collegiate Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) virtual conference May 25-26, 2021 and that the recipient be selected by the CSULB President's Commission on the Status of Women of which AAUW LB is a community partner. The recipient of this grant will be asked to provide a post-conference report within 30 days which describes what was gained by NCCWSL attendance. The report will be in written (approximately 500 words, double spaced) The grant recipient will also provide written permission for AAUW Long Beach to post the report on the branch website and/ or to include the report in a future Vantage newsletter during fall 2021.

The motion was seconded by Jeane Caveness. Passed 7-0-0

Author Fundraising Event—A Success

The 2021 Scholarship Fundraising Event, our annual author's talk, was a big success thanks to support from AAUW Long Beach Branch members and friends. Mystery author, Bonnie MacBird, was a delight as she talked about how she became involved in writing in the style of Sherlock Holmes from her London flat. She also shared her experience in Hollywood as the original writer of the science fiction film Tron.

Over 20 copies of her books were purchased by members and guests and Ms. MacBird has pledged to personally donate \$2 from each sale. Signed book plates and book marks were mailed to those who indicated their purchase. If you did not receive them, please contact Ginny Baxter.

Over 50 members and guests viewed the Zoom event. Almost \$3000 was donated for tickets and \$1400 for silent auction, for a total of \$4174.15. There are outstanding pledges in the amount of \$240.

These funds will be transferred into the scholarship account. Thanks to all the committee members and supporters who made my job easy and in particular, thanks to Tobi Balma, JoAnn Kuroda and Deloris Mayuga for their assistance with zoom, silent auction and accounting respectively.

~ with thanks from Ginny Baxter



News from The Scholarship Committee

Established in 2013 from monies bequeathed to the Branch from Frances Magarian, the AAUW Long Beach Frances Magarian Scholarship awards two scholarships of \$2500 each awarded to two recipients from California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) and two scholarships of \$500 each awarded to two recipients from Long Beach City College (LBCC).

The applicants submit applications containing among other information, their G.P.A., honors and awards they've received, an essay describing their goals and studies, and two letters of recommendation. The students are then interviewed by the committee. As always, the applicants this year were outstanding, and it was difficult to make the selections.

Meet the winners!

Mya (Tamiya) Campbell, CSULB, is a third year Psychology major and transfer student from El Camino College. She has been an active and involved student, serving as an intern at a Community Helpline, a research assistant to a faculty member doing research on sexual assault, and volunteering at her church. She plans to go into the Counseling field and is especially interested in working with the African American community.

Zoe Smith is a Mechanical Engineering major at CSULB. She serves as a mentor and a tutor to first year Engineering students. She is involved with the National Society of Black Engineers and has interned with the Griffith Company, where she learned more about the civil construction industry. Zoe is especially interested in recruiting and retaining high school girls and college women to the field of Engineering.

Both candidates talked about the importance of their sisters and mothers in their lives. You'll learn about the Long Beach City College scholarship recipients in the September issue of the Vantage.



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. 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 June is *The Other Daughter* by Lauren Willig Keep reading! Contact **Sharon Westafer** at 562-493-4749



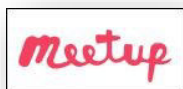
Public Policy meetings explore, discuss, and support the active legislative issues of AAUW, underscoring our mission of promoting equity and education for all women and girls. For the next meeting by Zoom, contact **Arnedra Jordan**



Residential Rentals Discussion Group meets the 3rd Wednesday of odd months **year round** from 10:00-11:30 am using Zoom 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

Sat., June 5 Branch Meeting & New Officer Installation
Mon., July 19 New Board Meeting 6:15 on Zoom
Sat., July 24 Leadership Retreat 9 am at LBCC
Happy Summer!

Contact Us aauwlongbeach@gmail.com

Website: LongBeach-ca.aauw.net

www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca

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



We look forward to seeing you at the June Branch meeting. Reservations can be made at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84221111111>

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

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

AAUW BRANCH MEETING

June 5, 2021

- 9:30 Digital Mingle social time
- 10:00 Branch Meeting
- 11:00 Outgoing Co-Presidents' Remarks
Installation of Officers

Place: Your Home via Zoom

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

Important COVID-19 Reminder

AAUW CA has advised that all branches follow their county health department guidelines regarding in-person meetings. While the June meeting will continue in the virtual format, stand by for updates about in-person meetings from the incoming co-presidents.

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

