



Vantage

A Tradition to Celebrate!

Ginny Baxter and Charlotte Joseph, Co- Presidents

Everyone's favorite holiday gathering is back. Save the date of Saturday, December 4 for our annual Wassail hosted this year by Delores Mayuga. In the past, this social meeting has been a time to share good food and socialize. Due to COVID



concerns, we will have catered food brought in for the event. Members are asked to donate \$15 instead of bringing food. But there is no change in the opportunity to socialize as usual!

Plans are for this holiday event to take place entirely outside in

Delores' lovely yard. We hope you will attend on Saturday to see old friends, new members and give a thought to bringing your own guests to share the food and fun.

Please see the back page for details about the donation and to RSVP.

Covid and vaccination protocols will be followed.



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 Ginny Baxter and Charlotte Joseph

Happy Thanksgiving. We have much to be grateful for: Good friends, capable leaders, educational programs and dedicated members. This month we heard from the new AAUW National President, Gloria Blackwell who invited us to a special 5-Star Briefing. The rest of her team was introduced and it was good to relate a name with a face. In another article we will share her speech. We also heard from the President of LACIC (Los Angeles County Interbranch Council). President Susan Berger from PV and Torrance presented a program on DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) led by Janice Lee of the North Peninsula Branch. A statewide committee has developed a framework and a tool kit on how to get started and has provided resources for branches.

I feel the Long Beach Branch has been working on DEI both last year and this with outstanding monthly programs. Thank you, DeeDee Catalano-Smith for organizing the November program on incarcerated youth in LA County and Long Beach City College. Member and LBCC Trustee Sunny Zia stepped in at the last minute. She shared information on her appointment by Supervisor Janice Hahn to the Probation Board and her involvement with formerly incarcerated youth students at LBCC. Thank you, new member, Taryn Williams for sharing your perspective too. We are so fortunate to have members like these women.

Lastly, AAUW celebrated their 140th Anniversary on November 17 with a webinar. The two female founders: University of Chicago Dean Marion Talbot and MIT Professor Ellen Swallow Richards, who by the way was responsible for the passage of the Food and Drug Act, were leading feminists before women could even vote. It's interesting (to me) that Dr. Richards is now also recognized as one of the first ecologists. What a legacy they have provided! They revealed AAUW Fund Alumni who have received national and international acclaim. Our branch along with every other has supported these women on their quest to advance gender equity for women and girls.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Wassail. Please RSVP to Sharon Westafer so we can get an accurate count.

Calendar Dates to Note

November 21	Exec. Committee meeting
November 30	Giving Tuesday
December 4	Wassail social meeting

Contact Us

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www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca

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AAUW-CA Update

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From the AAUW—CA Newsletter

EXTENDING THE MAGIC OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL GROUPS

Many religious and secular holidays will be observed during the upcoming winter months, providing opportunities to recognize and appreciate the richness of living in a multicultural society. It can also create underlying tensions when groups feel their holidays are not appreciated.

AAUW's efforts to create diversity, equity, and inclusion within our organization and the larger society we live in, call for us to consider how to make holiday celebrations more meaningful and inclusive. Here are some suggestions to foster understanding and awareness of each other's holiday traditions:

- Create a multicultural committee.
- Be respectful of how people observe different religious holidays. Avoid scheduling mistakes by checking an [interfaith](#), [multicultural calendar](#) or [winter celebrations](#) calendar.
- Provide food options that respect different dietary and cultural needs.
- Seek ways to make decorations inclusive and explain the religious traditions they represent.
- Make gift exchanges optional as they may cause disappointment for the recipient or hardships for the giver.
- Create awareness of different customs throughout the year.
- Invite feedback and member suggestions for next year's celebrations.
- Don't be too hard on yourself for inevitable omissions and oversights.

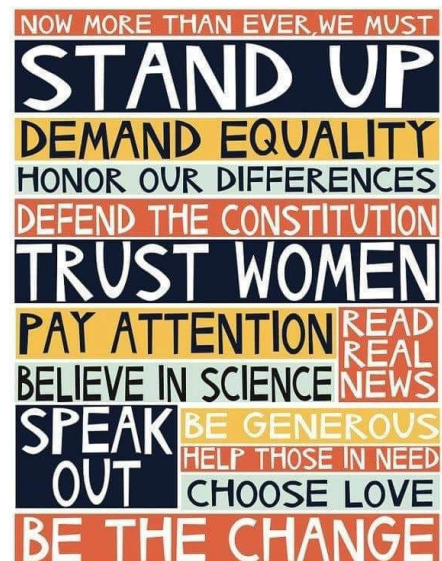
Several branches have begun inclusive holiday practices and are happy to share their experiences with others. Please send your successful holiday stories to DEI Chair, Elaine Johnson, at diversity@aauw-ca.org.

Inclusivity is more than exchanging "Happy Holidays" for "Merry Christmas." It is celebrating the friendship and understanding that develops from using holidays to bring different people together, and in the process, to create awareness of each other's traditions and beliefs.

LACIC

The LA County Interbranch Council met Sunday, November 14 at 2pm over Zoom. President Sandy Berger greeted the participants. The topic was DEI and how branches may incorporate it into their branches and programs. The State mission seeks to promote inclusion and awareness for all AAUW members. They propose this by creating awareness and how it affects us and to inspire branches understand and accept diversity and value the differences between and among us.

Ms. Lee encouraged branches to start a conversation using the AAUW tool kit. She suggested we have a DEI coordinator (ours is Mary Ann Takemoto) and suggested we each take a measure of our implicit bias through implicit.harvard.edu (Implicit Association Test). Sandy would like to visit a regular meeting of the various branches. We look forward to welcoming her.



All Things STEM

by Deloris Mayuga and Pat Ferrer, Co-Chairs STEM Conference

We are delighted to announce that we will have a new location for our annual STEM Conference on Friday, February 25, 2022, the Eunice Sato Academy for Math and Science. If you would like to check it out before the date of the conference, it is hosting an open house on Thursday, December 2, 2021 from 6 to 8 PM, 1100 Iroquois Ave, Long Beach, CA 90815.



We will need many volunteers to help us put on the conference. **Right now we need a volunteer to be Assistant Food Chair with Linda Patten.** Linda has done this job for many years and has requested a break. If you are interested, please contact us at aauwlongbeachstem@gmail.com.

In mid-December we will start asking for volunteers for work before, during, and after the conference. Work before includes stuffing goody bags and food bags. Work during includes greeting students, assisting with registration, being a facilitator for our workshop presenters, and many more tasks. Get ready to help make the 2022 STEM Conference better than ever! Work after is just helping with final pick up and helping take items for use the next year to vehicles, and other more manual tasks. Help us make this a successful new conference!

Program Planning

by Dee Dee Catalano

December Program – Wassail – at the home of Delores Mayuga, 10 am to 12 pm, December 4

Catered food will be served in a garden setting. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the holiday season with friends and to introduce guests to AAUW Long Beach. RSVP to Sharon Westafer. sharwest1@hotmail.com

January Program - Valerie Armstrong will talk about the Tech Trek program and the plans for 2022. Valerie will introduce Tech Trek participants from 2018 (now 11th graders) who will speak on Zoom about their camp experience and about how the pandemic has affected their STEM classes.

February Program – On February 17, Rita Powell and the Public Policy Committee have coordinated an evening program with AAUW Long Beach and the National Council of Jewish Women. They will host a panel discussion on Childcare & Financial Issues Facing Women Post Pandemic: Concerns & Solutions.

Speakers tentatively scheduled at this time will be Tunua Thrash-Ntuk, member of the City Committee for the Status of Women, Long Beach; state Senator Lena Gonzalez; member Herlinda Chico who serves as Field Rep for LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn, and Suzie Price, District 3 City Councilmember.



ATTENTION MEMBERS!

Branch Website Has Been Updated - Branch Member Input Needed

Please Click [HERE](#) check out the Website Send or give the link to your friends and prospective members. The Website is continually updated. It has two purposes: to keep members informed AND to attract potential members. Please email ideas/questions/comments to the Webmasters at

aauw.lb.webmaster@gmail.com

Or Email comments to Tobi Balma

Public Policy

by Rita Powell, Director of Public Policy

Presently we're advocating women in crisis and economic recovery. Biden's bill Build Back Better has now passed. The issues of importance within the bill are permanent universal paid family leave and medical leave, affordable childcare and ways to reduce poverty.

Keep the pressure on your elected officials regularly. How will these issues be met at the federal and California state level? AAUW also stands in solidarity with all those who continue to be harmed by the cruel abortion bans and they will continue to fight to demand abortion access for all. Pregnant workers are still forced out of the workforce. Pregnant Workers Fairness Act passed by the House and now needs the Senate approval.

Stay engaged this fall with the Two Minute Activities tools. Strengthen your voice with your policy makers. Speak up for women and girls.

[Two-Minute Activist – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)



A More Equitable Tomorrow

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead, Pioneering Anthropologist & 1978 AAUW Achievement Awardee

The AAUW Fund

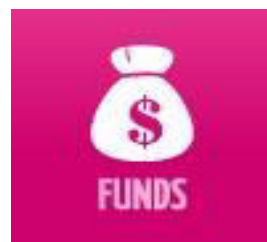
by Linda Westman

Exciting news!

Thanks to those in attendance at the last Branch meeting both in person and via Zoom, I collected \$1060 for the AAUW Fund! I imagine that many other members of our fabulous Long Beach Branch donated directly on the National AAUW website too. And just today I am pleased to hear an additional \$1500 donation was added.

The donations I received are divided between the Greatest Needs and the Education & Training Funds which reflects our values as a group. Both are important and worthy areas that will promote our mission... to advance equity and opportunities for women and girls in our community, across the nation, and throughout the world.

To take advantage of 2021 tax deductions for charitable donations, consider sending me a check for the AAUW Fund or making a contribution directly on the National AAUW website. Thanks again. You can send your (tax deductible) donation to my address (16211 Downey Ave, #87, Paramount 90723)



Membership Counts

by Carol Clanton, Membership VP

Membership Orientation Meeting Report

The Membership Orientation was held on Oct. 20, 2021. We had seven new members attend all or some portion of the meeting. I am genuinely grateful to the board members, Charlotte Joseph, Dee Dee Catalano, Pat Ferrer, and Rita Powell for their engaging and informative presentations. I also wish to thank Mary Ann Takemoto, Valerie Armstrong, and JoAnn Kuroda for their thorough speeches as well. It was a pleasure to welcome our new members to the Long Beach Branch of AAUW! The Orientation gave new members a clear overview of our varied and valuable branch activities. A recording of the meeting is available to those who were unable to attend.

Wassail

The Wassail is an important outreach opportunity to introduce our colleagues and friends to the Long Beach Branch and its projects. It is a festive way for our friends to meet our extraordinary AAUW members. Please consider inviting a guest to this year's Wassail on Saturday, Dec. 4th!

Membership Requests

Please contact Carol Clanton at aauwlongbeach.membership@gmail.com to become an AAUW buddy, Telephone Tree Volunteer, or help manage an AAUW LinkedIn account.

Five-Star Briefing

All 5-Star Branches were invited to attend a zoom meeting to meeting new AAUW National President, Gloria Blackwell. She shared that National has piloted a number of new programs focusing on social change. Although our branch no longer has Start Smart on a local level, AAUW national, through a grant from Coca Cola, has expanded financial literacy. They will be able to train over 1000 women and girls on the perils of student loan debt, investment strategies and one on one coaching. They have focused policy efforts with information on Latinas, (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/research/latina-initiative/>) showing the impact of COVID on women and studying local efforts. The pandemic has caused a reversal of the pay gap achievement.

The brochure from National, "Deeper in Debt" highlights student debt among black females and studies the rationale of student loan forgiveness. They have established "Hispanic History Month" on Social Media highlighting 30 women in 30 days. There will be a series of other webinars addressing policies and grantees.

AND...Did you know? This year is the Centennial of Marie Curie's reception of the Nobel Prize. AAUW was responsible for raising the funds to give her 1 gram of radium! We have continued our efforts to advance women in higher education by studying female faculty compensation with a grant from the National Science Foundation.



BRANCH INTEREST GROUPS

Joining an interest group(s) is a great way to get to know other members on a more personal level. Make new friends while participating in fun, informative and educational activities. To start a new interest group, submit a description to the Co-Presidents. **Until further notice, however, AAUW CA does not sanction any in-person meetings or events in compliance with CA State mandates.** The Contact persons listed below can inform you if groups are meeting virtually or are on hold.



Book Chat Plus normally meets the first Tuesday from 10 am-noon at Lamis' home. Members present an interesting book they've recently read, a film they've recently seen or they share about a recent travel experience. Contact **Lamis Hashem** at 562-795-6605 / theHashemFamily@gmail.com



Cultural Adventures Group plans trips to museums and other points of interest several times a year. It is usually a mid-week tour with lunch scheduled. Join a group that checks out museums and other interesting locations—maybe by Zoom or in person! Contact: **JoAnn Kuroda** at 562-432-6973 / sojoinlb@aol.com.



Diversity and Inclusion holds monthly meetings to suggest how our branch may be more welcoming and cognizant of different ethnicities and points of view. Contact: **Mary Ann Takemoto** at 562-896-6825 / martakemoto@gmail.com



GovTrek is in its inaugural year; leaders will reach out to high school girls interested in learning more about politics, leadership and volunteering. They will meet 1/22, 2/12, 3/12, 4/2, 5/14 and 6/11/22. Contact: **Arnedra Jordan** at 310-722-6594 / ajordan6@my.keller.edu



Great Decisions Groups meets to discuss, share opinions and ideas on critical issues global issues. Groups will meet in February 2022. One group meets Friday afternoons and the other meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. Planning to participate? Contact your group leader or Rita Powell at 562 595 6042 to order your book. Contact your group leader or **Rita Powell** at 562-595-6042 / riorita111@verizon.net



International Cuisine Group meets and dines at different ethnic restaurants in the local area. It is usually a dinner within an easy drive, scheduled every few months. Carpooling is an option... when we get back to driving and dining. Come join a group who enjoys unique flavors of the world. Contact: **Fay Denny** at 714-894-0416 / 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. The book selection for December is *Redhead by the Side of the Road* by Anne Tyler. Contact **Sharon Westafer**, 562-493-4749 if interested—and keep reading even if we are alone.



Public Policy explores, discusses and supports the active legislative issues of AAUW at the local, state, national and global levels to empower women and girls. It initiates emails and the 2 minute activist to promote legislation protesting civil rights, economic injustice issues and equal access to education. It is an authorized member of the LA County InterBranch Council. It may collaborate with approved partner organizations to work toward common local and state goals. Contact **Rita Powell** at 562-595-6042 / riorita111@verizon.net



Residential Rentals Discussion Interest Group started in 2009 meeting for topics relating to residential rentals – things of interest/importance/concern. The group has averaged 9-15 people per meeting. It continues in odd months at 10 am on the 3rd Wednesday. Most often we meet at the dining room table at one of our homes, but COVID 19 has seen us on ZOOM for the last year. Contact us for the future meeting status.

RSVP to Co-Chairs **Ellen Mathis** epmathis@verizon.net or Joan Gustafson – jwg221@aol.com



Under the Umbrella Book Group - The "new" Book Club will meet the 3rd Saturday of the month at 2:00 PM - Zoom meetings pending. We will read a variety of genres. We have room for more members! Ask Beverly about the titles to be read. Contact **Beverly Krivokapich** 562-596-1826 or email bevkrivo@yahoo.com

aauw.lb.webmaster@gmail.com

Or Email Web page comments to Tobi Balma



We hope you will join us for this monthly branch meeting in person.

Please RSVP by email or phone call to Reservations **Chair Sharon Westafer** to let us know if you are coming.

Please pay a \$15 donation

- via Zelle to aauwlongbeach@gmail.com
- via Pay Pal (select friends and family) to aauwlongbeach@gmail.com
- * or send a check to Deloris Mayuga

AAUW BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, December 4, 2021

Join us In Person

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

**Place: Home and Garden
of Dolores Mayuga**

Contact DeeDee C for hosting duties!

Important COVID-19 Reminder

In-person meetings may be held with respect for local guidelines at this time. 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 as we are able.



AAUW Long Beach Branch

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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

