



# Vantage

## Public Policy-Women's Issues

Ginny Baxter and Charlotte Joseph, Co- Presidents

What are the important issues affecting women in 2022?

Presented in conjunction with the National Council of Jewish Women, the program will feature a panel discussion on Childcare and Financial Issues addressing women. Plan to attend this important Public Policy program featuring a panel of outstanding Long Beach leaders who will address the following:

*How has the pandemic affected working women in Long Beach?*

*(jobs lost or childcare issues)*

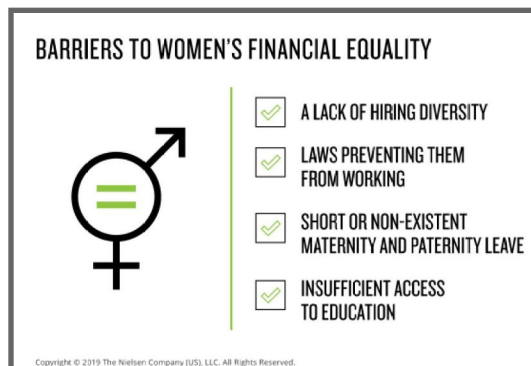
*What does LBCC offer that can improve career options for women?*

*Is the LBCC Child Development program being expanded to meet the needs of working women?*

*Can a Long Beach Commission on the Status of Women bring improvement in Pay Equity and working women's needs?*

*What can research from Orange County show us about childcare needs of working women?*

Because we expect a large turnout, the event will take place in Building O-2, rooms 208-209 at LBCC. It is located south of Conant Street and west off Clark Avenue with plenty of free parking. The February 17 business meeting will be held from 6:00 - 7:00 pm followed by the program and panel from 7:00—8:00 pm.



Join the meeting either in person following LBCC Covid guidelines or via Zoom. Please RSVP by Feb. 14 for either setting. See page 8.

### 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

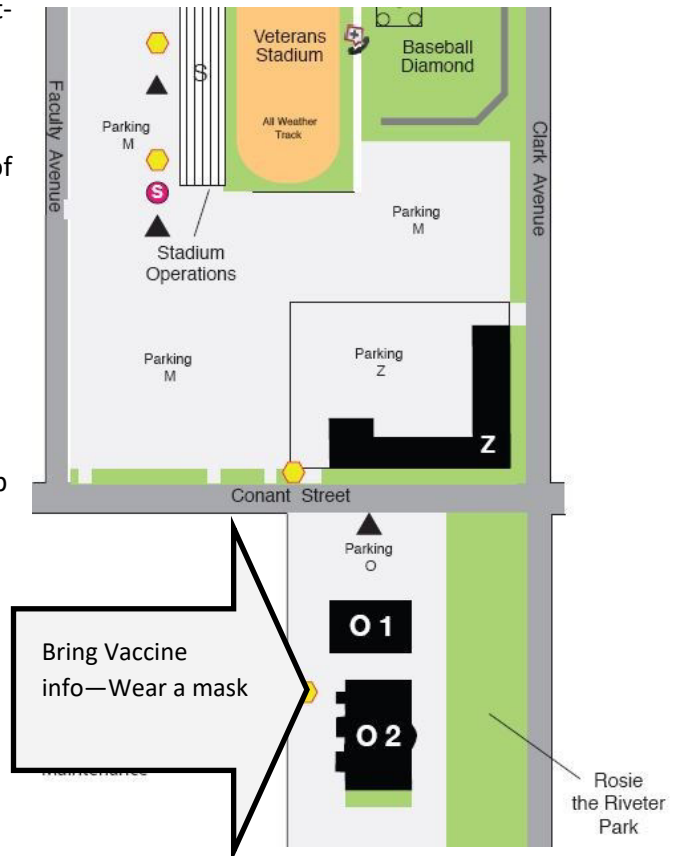
by Ginny Baxter and Charlotte Joseph

We are pleased with all of the volunteer efforts put in by our members. And we are just beginning with tasks this year. Pat Ferrer and Deloris Mayuga need your help to make STEM 2022 a success. Rita Powell and the Public Policy committee have created a partnership with the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) for the February meeting. Rita will need volunteers to serve as greeters and at the check-in table. As in the past we will offer a hybrid program of either in person or on zoom. If you are planning to attend in person, please come, but follow our COVID policy. You must be vaccinated and show proof, in order to attend. We will be meeting in Building O-2 south of Conant. Parking is available in front of the building.

Our Zoom friends can tune in on Thursday, February 17 to “see” what your fellow members are up to. The Branch meeting will start at 6 pm and the Program will follow at 7 pm. You must RSVP either way so we can plan. RSVP to [aauwlb.programs@gmail.com](mailto:aauwlb.programs@gmail.com).

The Nominating committee for next year’s officers has been formed and will be led by Frances Rozner. Please answer her call with a “yes.” Dee Dee Catalano Smith’s Program committee is continuing to plan quality programs. She and many other officers and chairs need your input.

Thanks for your continued membership.



We are so proud of our organization and what it does for our members and the community.

## Calendar Dates to Note

February 14	Exec Committee Meeting
February 17	Hybrid Branch Meeting
February 25	STEM conference
March 13	LACIC Meeting
April 2	Scholarship Fundraiser

## Contact Us

[aauwlongbeach@gmail.com](mailto:aauwlongbeach@gmail.com)  
<https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/>  
[www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca](https://www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca)

**For Vantage info: Rebecca Low**  
[rlow1@hotmail.com](mailto:rlow1@hotmail.com)

## Can't-Miss Webinar: Creating Allyship

What is allyship? How can one truly be an ally? What is the connection between allyship and privilege? AAUW's Inclusion and Equity (I&E) Committee invites you to a [webinar](#) exploring these questions on **Thursday, January 27**, at 4:00 p.m.

With a diverse set of allies within their membership, AAUW state and branch leaders can build more inclusive spaces and attract new members.

# Branch Meeting February 17



AAUW Long Beach and NCJW Long Beach and West Orange County In-Person/Online Presentation

## Childcare & Financial Insecurity Facing Women Post Pandemic: Concerns & Solutions

Date: February 17, 2022 7pm-8:30pm

Location: Long Beach City College, 4900 E. Conant, LB 90808 building O-2, room 208

Parking is FREE, NO refreshments will be provided

Those attending in person will be required to show proof of vaccination and wear a mask.

### Our speakers will address the following topics:

- How has the pandemic affected working women in Long Beach related to jobs lost and how local companies assist with Childcare issues?
- What does LBCC offer that can improve career options for affected women and is the Child Development program being expanded to meet the needs of working women?
- Can a Long Beach Commission on the Status of Women bring improvements in Pay Equity and meeting working women's needs?
- What can research from O.C. show us: about childcare needs of working women Challenges and a Call to Action

### Meet the speakers:



**Suzie Price**  
Long Beach City  
Councilwoman  
Deputy District Attorney  
Orange County



**Herlinda Chico,**  
LBCC Trustee and L.A.  
County Supervisor Field  
Representative



**Tunua Thrash-Ntuk**  
Executive Director, LA LISC  
(L.A. Local Initiatives  
Support Corporation)



**Tiffany Alva,**  
Director of Partnerships &  
Government Affairs  
First5 Orange County

### Outcomes from this presentation should address:

- how we can be advocates for working women,
- what role can NCJW and AAUW play in shaping legislation and
- what community volunteer opportunities might exist for us to fill.

RSVP to [aauwlb.programs@gmail.com](mailto:aauwlb.programs@gmail.com)

Registration Deadline:

February 14 to participate in-person

February 16 to participate via Zoom



**Saturday April 2 11:00 by Zoom**

You have spoken! The results of the membership survey revealed that the Fundraising event should be virtual. So let's get to work on sponsoring a great fundraiser for scholarships. Our Author, Naomi Hirahara is excited to share her thoughts about the "*Clark and Division*" mystery.

A silent auction preview starts Friday evening with more bidding again at 9am on April 2. Co-chairs Linda Silver and Julie Taboada encourage you to donate auction items... a Mother's Day or Father's Day gift, Easter brunch gift certificates, bottles of wine, or other enticing offerings. Linda will store items and committee members have volunteered to pick them up from donors. Dianne Bradfield is chairing opportunity drawing prizes so contact her if you have something our members and guests would like to bid on. Naomi herself is offering a prize!

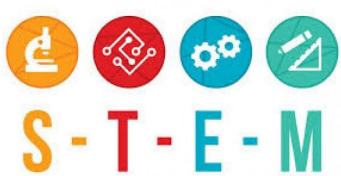
The price of the event is \$40 which includes the zoom link, 1 money hat ticket and 1 opportunity ticket. Naomi suggests that we can purchase her book at a female-owned bookstore in Long Beach, Belcanto Books, 2122 E 4th Street, Long Beach CA 90814. <https://shopthehangout.com/products/bcb-clark-and-division>. She is going to autograph copies for purchase before our event.

Make your check payable to AAUW, LB Scholarship to receive an income tax deduction. Checks will be deposited in our account at the LBCC Foundation. Paypal, zelle or benmo contributors would not be eligible for this but proceeds will go into the scholarship account at CSULB Foundation. Denise Montoya has volunteered to be our treasurer and Tobi Balma will coordinate the zoom. JoAnn Kuroda is working hard coordinating all the parts. Faye Denny and her son are creating the flyer which will be coming to you soon. Thanking you in advance for your support.

# All Things STEM

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

Our 18th annual STEM Conference will be held on **Friday, February 25, 2022** at the new location, Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science located near CSULB and Bixby Hill. We will need many volunteers to help us put on the conference, including assembling folders, stuffing goody bags and food bags. Work during conference includes greeting students, assisting with registration, being a facilitator for our workshop presenters, and many more tasks.



We also are looking for assistant committee chairs to become familiar with the committee tasks. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Deloris or Pat at [aauwlbstem@gmail.com](mailto:aauwlbstem@gmail.com).

The STEM Conference needs you! Help us make this a successful new conference!

## Tech Trek Update

by Valerie Armstrong

Tech Trek, a STEM summer camp for middle school girls, has been scheduled at UC Santa Barbara and UC Davis for 2022. We are still waiting to hear from other universities.

Students who are selected to attend Tech Trek spend a week living in a college dorm and attend workshops on STEM programs that include robotics, coding, and biology. They also hear inspirational speeches from women who have careers in STEM fields.

It costs \$1,000 to send a student to Tech Trek (\$400 per student if the program is virtual). If you would like to donate to our branch's Tech Trek fund, please send your check to:

Linda Patten, Tech Trek Treasurer  
19615 Jeffrey Circle Cerritos, CA 90703-7331



Checks should be made to AAUW CA SPF. For now, leave the memo line blank.

If you have any questions, please contact Valerie Armstrong, Tech Trek Branch Coordinator at: [valeriebeth@verizon.net](mailto:valeriebeth@verizon.net) 310-490-6670 (cell)

You might want to take advantage of an opportunity to donate to your favorite organization and save on your taxes. If you're 70 ½ or older and don't itemize, you may reduce your taxable income by making a Qualified Charitable Donation from your retirement fund to a qualified 501(c)(3) and even count it as part of your Required Minimum Distribution. Just be sure the donation is paid directly from the IRA to the charity. We suggest AAUW Fund or AAUW CA SPF for a Tech Trek donation?

Or more locally you can contribute to the AAUW Scholarship fund that gives funds to LBCC and CSULB students. Contact Treasurer Pat Ferrer.

## Childcare: An Overdue and Critical Investment

By Shelley Mitchell and Ginny Hatfield, AAUW CA Public Policy Committee

“It’s past time that we treat childcare as what it is – an element whose contribution to economic growth is as essential as infrastructure or energy...and the single most important thing we can do to build a stronger economy over the next several decades,” says Janet Yellen, the former Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank and now Secretary of the Treasury.

The state of U.S. childcare is deplorable compared with other developed nations, especially with respect to affordability. This fact has been brought home to us ever more vividly during the current pandemic. Women, who still bear the majority of childcaring, have left the workforce in the millions due to the absence of basic childcare services and the cost associated with it.

Here are some sobering statistics:

- \* 56% of married families with children under 6 consist of households where both parents work
- \* The employment rate for single mothers raising a young child is 65%; it’s 83% for single fathers who maintain custody
- \* The average American family with at least one child under 5 uses 13% of their income to pay for childcare
- \* Less than 20% of children eligible for a low-income federal assistance program are getting the funding
- \* 50% of Americans live in childcare “deserts” or areas where there are three children per every childcare opening
- \* In 24 states the average cost for infant full-time daycare exceeds the average cost of rent
- \* 97% of childcare providers are women, who are disproportionately women of color, making less than a living wage with no guaranteed benefits. In the US, the mean hourly wage for childcare workers is \$12.88, nearly \$3.00 less per hour than parking lot attendants, and \$5.00 less per hour than dog groomers.

This is a textbook example of a broken market, whereby the benefits of providing a service (in this case childcare) are not included in its overall value. Are our children really less important than our cars and dogs?

The consequences of not investing in quality childcare should have most Americans demanding action from their government leaders. Neglecting the care of young children is detrimental to their physical and mental wellbeing; it reduces productivity in the workforce; leads to lost wages and reduced retirement benefits for parents; it adds to the downward pressure on childcare workers, which in turn, impacts the quality and stability of childcare; and restricts future educational opportunities for family members.

There is hope on the horizon! *The Build Back Better Act*, now awaiting action by the Senate would provide universal preschool with high-quality childcare for 3- and 4-year-olds; increase wages for early childhood educators; upgrade existing childcare facilities, especially in high-need areas; and provide a sliding scale whereby parents would pay a reasonable percentage of their overall income to childcare costs.

Whether the legislation is included in the Reconciliation bill or taken up as a stand-alone bill, it deserves passage and your support. Childcare relief remains the top priority of AAUW California this year.

Please be sure to contact your Senator and let them know of your AAUW membership and your commitment to ensuring our Nation’s future.

**AAUW is calling on the 117th Congress to ensure that a permanent paid leave program, childcare funding and the Child Tax Credit are included in the budget reconciliation process.**

To find out more or to contact your senators, [CLICK Here](#)

# Membership Counts

by Carol Clanton, Membership VP

## Interest Groups

Interest Groups are a great way to attract prospective members and engage new members in an enjoyable, stimulating activity that helps personally connect them with current members. AAUW LB offers a variety of Interest Groups that meet in more informal, relaxed settings. As a reminder, **everyone who takes part in an AAUW Interest Group must be a current member of AAUW LB.** A guest may attend a maximum of three meetings before joining AAUW LB. This requirement complies with Standing Rule 5.a., and can be viewed on our Long Beach AAUW website: <https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/membership/interest-groups/>

Our Interest Groups are a benefit of membership in AAUW LB and are an incentive to join. Please tell prospective members about our incredible Interest Groups! New members please consider joining one or more groups! You can find more information about specific Interest Groups on the web page above and in the Vantage back page.

## Membership Requests

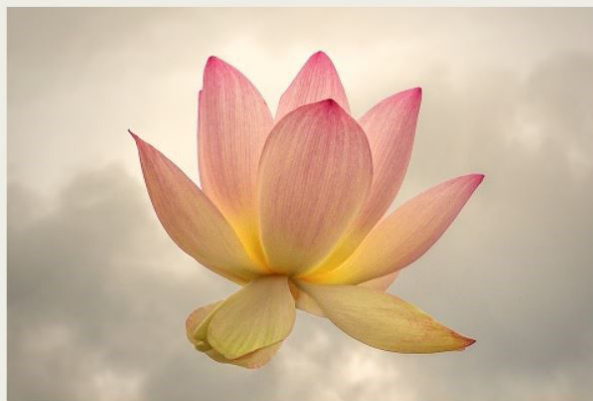
Please contact Carol Clanton at [aauwlongbeach.membership@gmail.com](mailto:aauwlongbeach.membership@gmail.com) to become an AAUW buddy, Telephone Tree Volunteer, or help manage an AAUW LinkedIn account.

# Congratulations Tobi !

by Carol Clanton

Tobi Balma received special recognition from Angela Cooper, AAUW National Sr. Manager, Connect and the Advancement & Partnerships Department. Angela made an end of year donation to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund in Tobi Balma's name.

During the month of December, the AAUW National Board and staff matched donations made to the Greatest Needs Fund. Angela used her matching gift to recognize national members who she personally knows show exceptional dedication to the mission of AAUW. Tobi is one of the members Angela honored with her donation. See Tobi's beautiful E-card:



Marilyn Baldi, *Enlightened*

AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Dear Tobi Balma,

Angela Cooper has made a donation to AAUW in honor of Tobi Balma.

Message from sender:

As I make my end of year donations to AAUW, I want to pause and recognize special people who care so much about this organization and the work it does on behalf of women and girls, and simple say, Thank You.



# 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 or email 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 February is *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. 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 uses the 2 minute activist to promote legislation protesting civil rights, economic injustice issues and equal access to education. An authorized member of the LA County InterBranch Council, AAUW 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](mailto:epmathis@verizon.net) or Joan Gustafson – [jwg221@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:bevkrivo@yahoo.com)

[aauw.lb.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.lb.webmaster@gmail.com)

Or Email Web page comments to Tobí Balma

meetup

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

Please RSVP by email to  
[aauwlb.programs@gmail.com](mailto:aauwlb.programs@gmail.com)

or phone Reservations Chair **Sharon Westafer** to let us know if you are Zooming or attending in person. This will help us to manage the new HYBRID version of meetings.

You will receive the LBCC Zoom link and details about coming to campus from Darlene before the meeting.

## AAUW BRANCH MEETING

Thursday, February 17, 2022

5:30 p.m. Check in and Digital Mingle  
6:00 p.m. Business Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Program

Place: Long Beach City College OR  
Your home using Zoom

Everyone will receive an email to clarify the meeting details. It will include the Zoom link, and a map of the LBCC campus location

### 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

