



# Vantage

## Back to the Garden!

*Dee Dee Catalano, Program Vice President*

The Annual May Garden Party and community outreach event will be held on May 7th. We are thrilled to be meeting in a real Garden this year and hope that you will join us at this in-person gathering, following your own Covid guidelines.



The event is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the projects AAUW LB supports that help advance gender equity for women and girls in our community. Meet our members in an informal outdoor setting and find out which projects members are passionate about. If you are a college student or have earned an Associate's Degree or higher, please inquire about the benefits that AAUW membership provides. Discounted Memberships will be also offered at this event!



We welcome all women, will enjoy spending time with members again as well as meeting new friends. See the meeting info or

contact Carol Clanton for details and RSVP please.

[www.https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/](http://www.https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/)

### **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

Our time in office is coming quickly to an end. We have had such wonderful programs and activities this year and we want to thank you all for participating in the level appropriate for you. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the May Garden party. We want to thank Janice Furman for offering her home. She agreed in 2019 and we appreciate the offer was still open.

We also want to thank all who “attended” the author’s event from buying tickets, donating prizes and bidding on the silent auction baskets. All were “sold,” some at twice the value. We made a profit of over \$6000. Denise Montoya, our treasurer, is adding up the proceeds. Several of you wrote checks directly to the 2 colleges, CSULB and LBCC. Those were sent to the institutions so you will receive a thank you from those entities. If you bought event tickets, opportunity tickets and silent auction baskets, your funds have been deposited into the AAUW Branch scholarship account. We are covered for the 2022-23 scholarships at both institutions. The branch scholarship committee will be selecting our recipients and we will meet them in September.

## 2022-2023 Elected Officers - Thank You to all volunteers!

Co-Presidents:	Denise Montoya & Sunny Zia
Vice President (President-Elect):	<i>vacant</i>
Co-Program VPs:	Ginny Baxter & Mary Ann Takemoto
Co-Membership VPs:	Jeane Caveness & Cacilia Kim
Co-AAUW Fund VPs:	Tobi Balma & Linda Westman
Treasurer (2 year term):	Pat Ferrer
Investments VP:	Linda Patten
Secretary:	Harriet McDonald & Anne Supple

## Calendar Dates to Note

April 18	Executive Meeting
May 7	Garden Party
June 4	Branch Meeting
July	Planning for 2022—2023

## 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)**

## SAVE the DATES

- **Monday, April 18,-April Executive Board Meeting**, 6:00pm via Zoom
- **Tuesday, April 19 - Harbor Cruise**,  
Contact JoAnn Kuroda to reserve your place!
- **Saturday May 7- Garden Party**  
Home of Janice Furman, 11:00am -1:00pm.  
[RSVP to Sharon Westafer](#)  
\$15 contribution from each member is suggested.
- **Thursday, May 12- Cultural Adventures**  
Bus to Academy of Motion Pictures Museum,  
Contact JoAnn Kuroda to RSVP
- **Saturday, June 4 - June AAUW Branch Meeting**, 9:30am, Long Beach City College Building O-2, 208. Installation of Officers and reveal the Connie Inskeep Award recipient. A light brunch will be provided by Ginny and Charlotte.
- **Friday, June 17, 2022 - Fun Event**  
at Tobi Balma's home.  
Contact [aauw.tobi@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.tobi@gmail.com) for more details!

# Public Policy

by Rita Powell, Public Policy Chair

## AAUW CA SPONSORS CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION

Guided by our member-approved Public Policy Priorities for 2021-2023, the AAUW California Public Policy Committee has selected the bills that we will be supporting as they move through the 2022 Session of the California Legislature. Here are the six highest priority bills:

- AB 92—creates an equitable sliding scale for family fees to alleviate the burden on working families struggling to pay for childcare and early childhood education services. Co-sponsor
  - AB 1666—enables persons to come from outside California for abortions and not be impacted by laws of other states. Co-sponsor
  - AB 1968—mandates the creation of websites at CSU/UC campuses to assist sexual assault survivors.
  - AB 2881—Student parents get priority enrollment, registration, and access to basic needs centers, enabling them to remain in California colleges.
  - SB 523—Expands contraceptive coverage by requiring health plans to provide point-of-sale coverage without cost-sharing.
  - SB 1375—updates statutes relating to abortion care to allow nurse practitioners to practice under standard protocols to provide first-trimester abortion care.
- Within our Public Policy Priorities, six bills are related to Economic Security for All Women, seven are related to Equal Access to Public Education, and 18 are related to Social and Racial Justice for all Members of Society.

AAUW California is experiencing greater visibility among elected legislators by sponsoring/co-sponsoring bills.

The Public Policy Committee members spent many hours in March researching bills, and in discussions over two days, to select bills to support. AAUW members are working to improve the lives of women and children in California!

## BRANCH GIVING by Harriet Tower, AAUW CA Fund VP

Contributions credited to the branch for 2021 **are reported as \$6564**. Thanks again for your outstanding generosity!

### DONOR CERTIFICATES

I have some certificates to present to branch members whose 2021 contributions of \$100 or more were credited to our branch. PDF copies of the certificates are attached.

Leaders Circle – Shaila Rao Mistry

**Equity Circle – Sharon Westafer**

Associates Circle

Sue Cochran

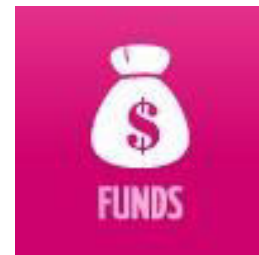
Nancy Turner

Krys Wulff

Sustaining Circle – Judy Horan

Century Club – Harriet Tower

Congratulations to all!



In addition to everything else our branch does well, we work to sustain AAUW with our generous giving.

# Tech Trek Update

by Valerie Armstrong, Tech Trek Branch Coordinator

The Tech Trek Committee has selected nine wonderful campers for 2022. Three are from Hamilton Middle School and six are from Muir Academy. The teacher liaisons (Paige Wells at Muir Academy and William Feliciano from Hamilton MS) were extremely helpful in providing information and recommending excellent students.

This year there will be two locations for Tech Trek: Whittier

College and UC Santa Barbara. Four students will attend camp at Whittier College and five will attend UC Santa Barbara.

As Tech Trek Branch Coordinator, it was my pleasure to work with our fantastic Tech Trek Committee: Tobi Balma, Linda Patton, Anne Supple, Carolyn Vollaie, and Judy Willis. Tobi has the additional responsibility of being the assistant to Judy Pfeil, who is the director of the Whittier camp. She is working hard to make the Whittier camp a wonderful experience. All committee members did an exceptional job of interviewing the students. An extra shout-out goes to Tobi, who edited and refined our interview questions.

We will need assistance with sorting t-shirts and other items for the campers at Whittier College. Tobi should receive the materials by the end of May, so we will plan a "sorting party" in early June.

More details will come later. We hope you will join us!

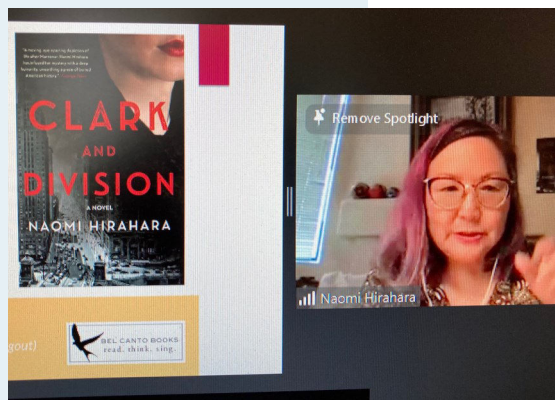


## Scholarship Success

by FRANCES MAGARIAN SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The AAUW Long Beach Frances Magarian Scholarship Committee thanks members and guests who helped make the Author's Day Event, held on April 2, a HUGE success. We appreciate all of the Silent Auction and Opportunity items you gave to make the auction exciting and fun. The generous monetary amount generated exceeded this year's goal. All earnings go towards scholarship recipients at both LBCC and CSULB.

The Author's Day Event was coordinated by the Author's Day Committee who worked hours to make this a wonderful event. We cannot say thank you enough to auctioneer Ginny Baxter, photographer Charlotte Joseph, Techie Tobi Balma, Flyer Creator Fay Denny, Opportunity Gifts Procurer Dianne Bradfield, Basket Creators Linda Silver and Julie Taboada, Gift Cards Procurer JoAnn Kuroda, Assistant Linda Westman, Monitors Jeane Caviness, Becky Low, Sharon Westafer and Fay Denny, and Reservationist Denise Montoya.



The speaker, Naomi Hirahara, spoke eloquently about her personal and writing background and books which made the morning special and meaningful. We also thank Bell Canto Books at The Hangout for supporting with book sales.

This event makes us proud to be members of the Long Beach Branch of AAUW.



# STEM Success

by Patricia Ferrer and Deloris Mayuga, Conference Co-Chairs

## Long Beach Branch STEM Career Conference

Branch Co-President, Ginny Baxter, welcomed 221 middle school girls to the 18th Annual STEM Career Conference, held at Sato Academy for Mathematics and Science on February 25th. Principal, Ronnie Coleman added her welcome. Guests, Diana Craighead and Megan Kerr of LBUSD, Board of Education, were introduced, and sponsors were recognized. The Keynote Speaker Taryn Williams, an AAUW Long Beach member with two bachelor degrees from CSULB and currently working on a Ph.D from UC Irvine, talked to the girls about overcoming personal struggles, including being incarcerated, to achieve a successful life.

After the keynote address, the girls each attended two 40-minute workshops led by women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers. The workshops, with fun hands-on activities, were presented by:

- \* Stephanie Osorio, Architect, Osorio Architecture
- \* Marianne Lapitan, Civil Engineer, Michael Baker International
- \* Danna Bran, Coroner, Orange County Sheriff's Department
- \* Ana Corcoran, Environmental Engineer, MS Hatch Consulting
- \* Sathya Chey, Financial Adviser, Arise Private Wealth
- \* Jennifer Rojas and Yan Zhang, Hydrologists, Long Beach Water Department
- \* Courtney Richards, Paleontologist, Material Culture Consulting
- \* Carolyn Duclayan-Vizmanos, Public Health Nurse, LA County, Dept. of Health
- \* Leslie Gonzales, Software Engineer, Technology Management Concepts
- \* Kathy Rantowich, Structural Engineer, MHP Structural Engineers

Partnering schools this year were Franklin Classical Middle School, Hamilton Middle School, Lindberg STEM Academy, Muir Academy, Powell K-8 Academy for Success, Robinson Academy, and Washington Middle School.

Our STEM Conference was featured in an article in the Orange County Breeze. Be sure to check out the STEM portion of our website for pictures. (<https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/>)

Thank you to the 46+ volunteers who helped to make this year's STEM conference a successful and smoothly run event! This year for the first time we held the conference at Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science. Volunteers stuffed folders, goodie and snack bags, handled registration and distribution of materials, photographed the event, facilitated the speakers, acted as traffic monitors, and thoughtfully represented the branch in all their roles. Special thanks to the Committee Chairs who spent many hours overseeing the details: Darlene Daclan & Tammy Kane (Volunteers), Barbara Hall (Registration), Karen Gustafson (Facilities), Linda Patten & Jeane Caveness (Food), Julie Taboada (Program), Frances Rozner (Fundraising) and Depi Vidyarthi (Publicity).

The Port of Long Beach, TABC, Inc., SCS Engineers, Society of American Military Engineers, Orange County Post, Kirsten Larsen of DTS, Inc., Crimson Pipeline LLC., Long Beach Water Department, MHP Structural Engineers, P2S Inc., Technology Management Concepts and Teachers Association of Long Beach gave generous financial donations, underwriting the expenses of the conference. Their support is very much appreciated. For the donation of goodie bag contents, we wish to acknowledge American Red Cross, Crimson Pipeline, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Julie Taboada, Long Beach Airport, Long Beach City College, Long Beach Water Department, Museum of Latin American Art, Port of Long Beach, Teachers Association of Long Beach, Technology Management Concepts, University of Kansas, Women Influencing & Impacting Toyota.



# Membership Counts

by Carol Clanton, Membership VP

## May Garden Party:

Please plan to attend the May 7th Garden Party! It is an opportunity for you to invite a friend to learn more about AAUW and the valuable projects our Long Beach Branch supports. The suggested cost for refreshments is \$15 per member, but guests are free of charge.

This is also a **Shape the Future Campaign** and National Memberships will be offered to new members at a discounted rate.

## Managing Memberships With the Community Hub:

Excerpt from the Board to Board April Newsletter by Carol Holzgrafe, Director

*The long wait is over: the Community Hub has arrived - mostly - replacing the old Member Services Database (MSD). All members will need to reset their password. Click [HERE](#) to go to the AAUW National website. To access your account, click the "Log In" at the top right corner of the home page. **The first time you log in, you'll need to reset your password by clicking the "Forgot Password" link.** From there you will be directed to your "Personal Snapshot". Do try it. Click [HERE](#) for instructions and several tutorials on how to set up your Personal Snapshot, the new term for your personal AAUW portal. (As a current member, you can skip the information in the video on how to add new members.)*

*Once in your Personal Snapshot, you can click on the various links on the left side and add any appropriate information. Check "My Payment Methods" if you want to pay your dues by either your bank account or your credit card. Look for the 3 dots to the right of each subject to see more options. This is also where you will renew your membership when notified that the renewal process is open and is also the place where you can make donations. National dues will be \$67 for the 2022-23 year, a rise of \$5. Still a bargain.*

## Managing Memberships Continued:

AAUW National is re-evaluating the renewal process continually. In addition to the instructions above, National is also considering sending renewal notices in a similar manner as last year (receive renewal email, click link, pay by credit card). More information to follow.

Finally, new members who join will be on a rolling expiration system. Their 12 month membership period will extend from their join date through the last day of their join month the following year. Ex. A member who joins on 4/15/2022 will have a membership expiration of 4/30/2023. Going forward, new members will receive a full 12 month membership regardless of when they join! All current members' expiration dates will remain the same, therefore, most members' renewal date is June 30, 2022 for the 2022-23 year.

## SAVE THE DATE



Join us for an exciting trip to the **Academy Museum of Motion Pictures** on **Thursday, May 12, 2022.**

The museum celebrates film's diverse and dynamic art and artists. The core exhibition features spectacular galleries devoted to Spike Lee, Bruce Lee, Thelma Schoonmaker, Wizard of Oz, Citizen Kane and other notable films. You will be transported to the whimsical world of Hayao Miyazaki's films.

We will meet at the Target parking lot, 2270 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90815. Please arrive 20 minutes before departure in order for vaccine/booster IDs or 72 hours prior testing to be checked before boarding bus. Also needed to enter the Academy Museum. The bus departs at 9:00am.

Following the trip to the Academy Museum we will go to The Farmer's Market for lunch on your own.

**Price: \$25.00** – which includes gratuity to the driver and support for the AAUW Long Beach France Magarian Scholarship. Make checks payable to JoAnn Kuroda. 5991 E Belen Street, LB CA 90815  
RSVP: Lewette Fitzgerald, text at 562-212-0070 OR JoAnn Kuroda, 562-429-6923 or email at [sojoinlb@aol.com](mailto:sojoinlb@aol.com)

# 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 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. 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 May is *Secrets of the Sprakkar* by Eliza Reid. 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 / [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



Please **RSVP** by email  
or phone Reservations Chair  
**Sharon Westafer** to let us know if  
you will attend in person.

You will receive more details about the  
address and refreshment arrangements  
before the meeting.



### **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.

## **AAUW BRANCH MEETING / Garden Party**

**Saturday, May 7, 2022**

**Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Place: Home of Janice Furman**

Join us for light refreshments at noon time and  
enjoy seeing the home and garden that Janice is  
proud of.

Contact Carol Clanton for details about the  
member \$15 contribution to provide catered food.



### AAUW Long Beach Branch

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

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



Note in your Yearbook!  
The new AAUW CA address is  
915 L Street, Suite C, Box 418  
Sacramento 95814