



Vantage

Learn and Make Decisions

Mary Ann Takemoto and Ginny Baxter, Co-Program Vice Presidents

October is a busy month. Take a look through this newsletter and see all of the activities! Please join us at the branch meeting on October 1 as



AAUW's Nancy Mahr gives our members and guests her insight on the November ballot initiatives. Nancy puts a great deal of research into giving a non-partisan report.

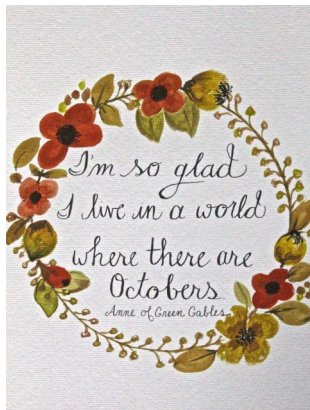
Nancy did this 2 years ago for our members and it stimulated a great deal of discussion. Don't forget to vote on November 8!

Following Nancy's presentation, we will hear about the Long Beach Unified School District's transgender student and non-conforming youth policy. Dr. Claudia Sosa-Valderrama, Director, Student Services, and Brandon Messina, Assistant Administrator - LGBTQ+ Initiatives Lead will enlighten us on this important topic. You may remember the controversy over the locker room proposal at Wilson High School. Hopefully their talk will include a discussion of the outcome. We will also hear about the experiences from Branch Member, Maricela de Rivera, who has a transgender child.

Be sure to RSVP for the Saturday meeting to attend in-person or via Zoom - you won't want to miss hearing this engaging and dynamic program!

Visit our Website:

<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 Denise Montoya and Sunny Zia

Engagement With AAUW – Long Beach Branch

Sunny and I have heard your requests and we are offering this “How-to-Guide” to help you either reenter Branch activities or learn how-to if you’re a brand-new member. Let us first start off by saying that each one of you matters, and we want to acknowledge your busy schedule. Your time, your talents and your gifts are truly what keep our valuable community efforts going. Below are a few of this fall’s opportunities for you to consider committing to. You joined to be an advocate for the advancement of women and girls. Make a commitment to do so below! It isn’t all work, you could make a few new friends and enjoy that warm feeling in your heart that you’re making a difference!

Leadership opportunities: 1) Parliamentarian – vacant. If you have experience with Robert’s Rules of Order, your skills can support Branch and Board meeting processes. Contact Co-Presidents Sunny or Denise to volunteer. 2) Career Development – vacant. If you have career development experience, our younger members would appreciate a coordinated process to learn all of the skills for career entry, movement to upwardly mobile positions, and networking. Contact Co-Presidents Sunny or Denise to volunteer. 3) Social Media Manager – a new (!) position/ vacant. Contact Jane Hansen for further information.

Project opportunities: 1) Gov Trek – is a virtual state-led project to engage high school juniors and seniors in career exploration and interest in political office. A webinar is scheduled for 11/16/22 for Branch registration and receipt of the toolkit. Contact Arnedra Jordan for further information. 2) STEM Conference – an in-person opportunity for middle school students to learn more about careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Successful women working in these fields share their experiences and teach a hands-on lesson to expose the students to creative opportunities. Contact Darlene Daclan for further information. 3) Tech Trek – statewide, of the middle school students invited, 70% attended in person a week-long overnight camp. The other 30% attended last year virtually. Committee meetings have already started for formulate plans for summer 2023. Contact Valerie Armstrong for further information.

Committee opportunities: Scholarship Committee – fundraises for CSULB and LBCC scholarships, usually 2 each. An Auction is held annually. The members may review applicants’ documents and schedule the awardees to attend a Branch meeting to be introduced to members. For more information, contact JoAnn Kuroda.

2) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI) – members have prepared and shared educational information via Branch presentations, icebreakers, and secured professional speakers for our Branch programs. For more information, contact Mary Ann Takemoto.

Branch Interest Groups: There are groups for the following activities – Residential Rentals (contact Ellen Mathis), Book Chat Plus (contact Lamis Hashem), Cultural Adventures (contact JoAnn Kuroda), Great Decisions - reading/ discussion of critical global issues (contact Rita Powell), and Public Policy (contact Rita Powell).

Please contact the Co-Presidents if you wish to volunteer to chair the International Cuisine Group – it meets to dine at ethnic restaurants locally. The Under the Umbrella Book Club also needs a chair, so you are encouraged to also contact the Co-Presidents to fill that vacancy.

Events: 1) The Mystery Author’s Event raises money for scholarships and will be scheduled in the spring this year. The committee could use your help! Contact Ginny Baxter and/or JoAnn Kuroda. 2) Public Policy is looking for assistance in the planning of a Celebration for Title IX, federal legislation requiring equitable access to education for women and girls, as students and professionals. Contact Rita Powell.

Calendar Dates to Note

Sept. 19	Exec. Committee Meeting
Sept. 24	Service for Raquel
Oct. 1	Branch Meeting
Oct. 21	Ride the Aqua Link

Contact Us

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longbeach-ca.aauw.net/

www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca
For Vantage Editor: Rebecca Low
rlow1@hotmail.com

Branch News

Save the Date!

CULTURAL ADVENTURES

RIDING THE AQUA LINK

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2022

Join the Cultural Adventures group on Friday, October 21, as we travel by boat for a fun trip from Alamitos Bay to the Aquarium and back to Alamitos Bay Landing where Parking is free.

Boarding begins at 11:30 am but we would like everyone to be at the dock by **11:00 am**.

Lunch will be on your own near the Aquarium/Shoreline Village at your choice of restaurants!

The return time is at 2:30 pm from the Aquarium.

Price: \$5.00 each way (total \$10.00) per person *Cash or credit/debit card is accepted*

RSVP: Linda Westman at 310-493-4434

<https://ridelbt.com/aqualink/>

Tech Trek Update



After a two-year hiatus, Long Beach students experienced wonderful programs onsite at UC Santa Barbara and Whittier College. Three students from Muir Academy and two students from Hamilton Middle School completed a lengthy application process, which included proof of vaccination and a negative COVID test upon arrival at camp. All five had an unforgettable experience and wrote about their favorite activities in thoughtful thank you notes.

Campers at Whittier College took project-based classes in Biology, Architecture, Anatomy, Computer Science, and Forensic Science. Following their classes, they attended workshops on Polymers, Paleontology, and the Science of Cosmetics. Field trips included the Columbia Space Museum and a cadaver lab. Activities continued into the evening with career presentations from professional women and college readiness information. Camp Director Judy Pfeil and her assistant, Tobi Balma, did an outstanding job of organizing these programs. Students who attended the UC Santa Barbara camp attended classes in Aerospace, Robotics, and Forensic Science. Field trips included a boat excursion where the students saw pods of dolphins.

Although AAUW Long Beach approved nine students for Tech Trek, three could not meet the vaccination requirement and one experienced the death of a grandparent shortly before camp. The vaccination requirement was clearly stated in the application and discussed in the students' interviews.

The Tech Trek Committee will begin contacting schools by the end of September. We're looking forward to selecting our next group of outstanding campers.



Calling All Volunteers for the 2023 STEM Career Conference!

It's that time of year again. We are looking for volunteers to assist at the branch's amazing AAUW Long Beach Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Career Conference. The Conference is scheduled for Friday afternoon, February 24, 2023, at the Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science.

At this yearly Conference, women in STEM careers present workshops to 7th and 8th grade girls to excite them about the possibilities of such careers and encourage them to attend college. We are excited to have confirmed 10 Long Beach schools to participate and are in the process of lining up the 10 speakers to lead the workshops.

Volunteers for this event are needed to take on tasks like facilitating speakers, helping with school check in, assisting with traffic flow, preparing conference bags, and photographing key elements. If you are interested in being a volunteer or if you have any questions about assisting at the STEM Conference, please email Darlene Daclan at darlene_daclan@yahoo.com or call at 562/673-6909.

Diversity Corner

by Alyce LaViolette, Co-Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

October is a Big Month for Celebrating Diversity and the Acceptance of People and Circumstances that are Different from Our Own.

National Coming Out Day for the LGBTQ plus community and their allies is October 11. That day of celebration was inaugurated in 1988 by Robert Eichberg and Jean O'Leary, both pioneers and activists in the Gay Rights Movement. October 11th was chosen because it was the first anniversary of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Here are a few AAUW National website links about [sexual orientation](#) and [gender identity](#).



October is also Domestic Violence Awareness Month which was introduced in 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. It was created to bring awareness and support to the approximately 10 million people (most are women but also include men and children) who become victims of domestic violence every year. Domestic violence crosses racial, status, religious and cultural boundaries. These movements were both about educating communities and bringing awareness to these violations of human rights...but also to connect victims of homophobia and intimate partner violence and their allies. [AAUW's Public Policy](#) supports "freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes, in homes, schools, workplaces and communities. See also: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/aauw-public-policy-priorities/>

You can become an ally or advocate in many ways. You can read books and articles, listen to speakers, podcasts, and TED Talks, and attend events that support these causes (you can check the Internet or call these local organizations - The Center, WomenShelter, Interval House or Rainbow Shelter for information and local events). You can have discussions about these issues. You can become involved as a volunteer. You can use your voice in the upcoming election on Tuesday November 8, 2022, to protect human rights.

With the help of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, the Branch maintains helpful information and numerous resources for our Branch members to refer to in creating a welcoming environment for members and the community. Please use this link to access this site- <https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/dei/> Lastly, please tell your like-minded friends, co-workers and family members about our terrific programs related to diversity, equity and inclusion this year! You can share your newsletter, the website links, and invite them to hear a program or attend an event. They might even join!

Imagine the gifts they'll bring to enhance the advocacy of the Branch!

Some members think they need to have a healthy bank account in order to become a **Legacy Circle** member. The answer is, no! A Legacy gift is not something you give during your life-time; it is given by your estate. There are many ways to leave a gift, including making AAUW a beneficiary on an insurance policy or annuity, donating a set sum or a percentage of your estate, creating a charitable gift annuity, or even creating a COD account at your bank (You deposit money now and it is payable to AAUW upon your death).

The top three motivations that AAUW donors cite for making a planned gift are the importance of AAUW's mission; the belief that AAUW makes a significant impact; and the ability to make a larger gift through an estate gift than is normally possible during the donor's lifetime.

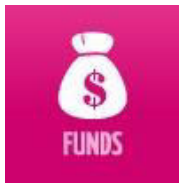
- ◆ There is no minimum gift requirement to join the Legacy Circle, and the benefits are many. For example:
- ◆ Planned gifts afford you flexibility to provide for your family and support AAUW.
- ◆ Certain planned gifts may reduce estate or capital gains taxes.
- ◆ Planned gifts need not affect your cash flow during your lifetime.
- ◆ Certain types of planned gifts allow you to support AAUW while also providing income for the rest of your life — or a fixed income for a loved one.

The joy of knowing that your legacy gift will sustain AAUW's programs for years to come is the ultimate benefit!

AAUW Fund

by Linda Westman and Tobi Balma, Co-AAUW Fund V.P.s

SAVE THESE AAUW FUND DATES



November 5, 2022: Annual Envelope AAUW Fund Appeal: come to the November branch meeting with your checkbook! We will also provide pledge forms. For those who are eligible, consider making a charitable donation from your IRA.

AAUW CA 2022 Fund Zoom Meet a Fellow Webinars Sign up for 1 or all 4 [HERE](#)

October 15, 2022 10 am – 12 Noon

October 22, 2022 10 am – 12 Noon

October 23, 2022 1 pm – 3 pm

November 12, 2022 10 am – 12 Noon

39 inspiring California fellow and grant recipients will share nuggets of their fascinating studies at these four fall AAUW Fund virtual events. See what, and who, your AAUW Fund dollars support. Sign up for one or all to learn about sustainable environments, global migration, refugee studies, and other topics.

SPOTLIGHTING A RECIPIENT OF AN AAUW LONG BEACH BRANCH AMERICAN FELLOWSHIP ENDOWMENT

Nadeeka Karunaratne, is an American Fellowship recipient funded in part by our 1986 Louise R. Arbogast Endowment. Since 1888, AAUW has been one of the largest funders of women's graduate education, investing in women who go on to change the world. American Fellowship awards from \$8,000 - \$50,000. It supports women who are pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research full time, or preparing research for publication for eight weeks.

AAUW awards several different types of fellowships and grants. Awards are funded from the interest of an endowment, not the endowment itself. This is why fellowships are usually funded using several endowments. Interested in learning more, applying for a Fellowship or grant for yourself or someone you know? Click [HERE](#)

Applications are currently being accepted. Deadlines vary from early November to early December.

American Fellowships



Name: Nadeeka Karunaratne
Award Year: 2022-23
Award: American Fellowship
Institution: University of California, Los Angeles
Location: Los Angeles, California
Discipline: Education
Degree and Specialization: Ph.D., Higher Education
Project Name: Women of Color Students' Responses to Experiences of Dating Violence in College

Nadeeka Karunaratne's work addresses campus sexual and relationship violence through uplifting the experiences of minoritized survivors and centering students' healing. Prior to pursuing her Ph.D., she served as a violence-prevention educator and a university cultural center program coordinator. She facilitates trauma-healing yoga programs on college campuses and in the larger community.

Sponsors:

1652 - Louise R. Arbogast

1889 - Thousand Oaks (CA) Branch Inc. 30th Anniversary

4046 - Vivian Lamont Coe

Most of us contribute to the AAUW Fund yearly. We are proud of the Fellowships AAUW awards and by contributing to the Greatest Needs Fund, we know we are helping AAUW's mission. **The Legacy Circle** enables you to keep contributing to AAUW after your death. Become a beloved visionary who is committed to advancing equity for women and girls long into the future. (See page 4)

To learn more about the benefits of planned giving, please contact Judy Horan and Charmin Goehring, of the AAUW Legacy Circle Team (queenjah@pacbell.net and charminme@yahoo.com), or by contacting Tobi Balma.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>



As a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle, you will receive a beautiful pin designed by Swarovski and former AAUW Educational Foundation President Alice Ann Leidel to honor your generosity and commitment to the future of women and girls. This lovely pin is a gold wreath adorned with pave crystals and trimmed with a gold ribbon that proudly proclaims, "A Legacy of Equity." At the base of the wreath is an open book with a suspended pearl. We hope that you will proudly wear it and share your story with your AAUW sisters and friends.

New Member Spotlight by Co-Membership V.P. Jeane R. Caveness, Ph.D

Highlighted this month are two new members who joined last May. Please welcome **Elaine Heber** and **Faye Alperin**.

How did you get connected with AAUW Long Beach?

Elaine: I was a member of AAUW Antelope Valley (AV) branch.

Faye: I became aware of AAUW when I signed up for the online fundraiser with author Naomi Hirahara, then did research on AAUW's focus. I also have two friends who are members.

What is your current position or former position if retired?

Elaine: I taught Special Education for both Los Angeles Unified School District and San Diego Unified School District.

Faye: Retired elementary teacher and currently an avid volunteer.

What is something unique that you would like the branch to know about you?

Elaine: I enjoy reading, gardening, hiking, and traveling. Also, as a special education teacher, my most challenging position was teaching kindergarten/first grade autistic students in a Moderate/Severe classroom without a curriculum. I met their educational needs by providing hands on materials and as much multimedia content for the information as necessary. I very much enjoyed working with these young students and the opportunities to encourage their academic, social, and emotional needs.

Faye: I have an interest in Asian art and am one of the curators of the Asian Art Collection at Assistance League of Long Beach.

What is your favorite activity or book?

Elaine: My favorite is *The Round House*, by Louise Erdrich.

The story is told by a boy approaching manhood who is clinging to justice and has been exposed to a horrific crime against his mother. It is a story of coming-of-age, a mystery and a delicate moving novel of family, history, and culture.

Faye: I love anything that takes place outdoors: fly fishing on Montana rivers, gardening or visiting gardens, and traveling.

Any other comments?

Elaine: I am so excited about AAUW Long Beach and can't wait to participate in all the wonderful programs.

Faye: My daughter and son-in-law live in Oakland with their 2 boys, and my son and new wife live in Austin. My husband and I travel to visit them often.



"An open door is a welcome that makes a stranger into a friend."

Please contact Cacilia Kim, Co-Membership VP, to become a buddy or find out more about Membership options.

Public Policy

by Rita Powell, Public Policy Director

AAUW California will be planning a Voter Education campaign for November, introducing a new Title IX bill in December, revising the Public Policy priorities for 2023-25 in January. Next year they will be setting a Legislation Agenda and having a member Lobbying event. Public Policy has an extensive agenda of activities planned to educate and mobilize our members. Remember the AAUW Mission of advancing equity through advocacy.

We will be celebrating the Title IX 50th Anniversary this year and next by having various people tell their personal success stories, legislative cases won and we will be celebrating Patsy Mink, who co-authored the Title IX Equal Opportunity Education Act.

BRANCH INTEREST GROUPS

Joining an interest group (or several) 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. The Contact persons listed below can inform you if groups are meeting virtually or are in person.



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. The group will meet monthly to plan activities. Contact: **Arnedra Jordan** at 310-722-6594 / ajordan6@my.keller.edu



Great Decisions Groups meet to discuss, share opinions and ideas on critical issues global issues. One group meets Friday afternoons and another meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. Planning to participate in the Spring of 2023? Contact your group leader or **Rita Powell** 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: The **Executive committee as we are looking for Volunteers to lead this group!**



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 October is *Leaving Time* by Jodi Picoult. We share this information so even if you aren't able to join us, you have reading suggestions. Contact **Sharon Westafer**, 562-493-4749 if interested.



Public Policy committee 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



The **Residential Rentals group** started in 2009 with a monthly 3rd Wednesday 10 am gathering. It is a discussion group on topics relating to residential rentals – things of interest/importance/concern that keep each other informed. The group has averaged 10-13 people per meeting. It continues in odd months; most often meeting at the dining room table at one of our homes or on ZOOM.

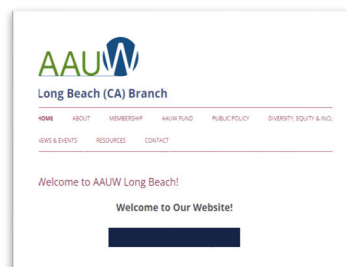
To be on the email list contact **Joan Gustafson** jwg221@aol.com or **Ellen Mathis** epmathis@verizon.net.



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 about the titles to be read. Contact **Carol Llewellyn** 562-430-4380

The branch website has been updated.

Please click [HERE https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/](https://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/) to see what is new! Contact Tobi Balma by email for web questions or suggestions aauwlongbeach.webmanager@gmail.com



NEW! Please RSVP by email
To Reservations Chair
Charlotte Joseph to let us know if you
will attend in person, via Zoom or not at
all. Use this email address from now on!

aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com

You will receive a reminder and more
details about the meeting location and
Zoom link before the meeting.

AAUW BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, October 1, 2022

Time: 9:30 Social and Mingle

10:00 Meeting

11:00 Program

**Place: Long Beach City College
Building O2, Room 208
4900 E. Conant St. LB 90808**

Building O2 is on Clark, on the southwest corner of Conant,
behind and to the west of Rosie the Riveter Park. Entering
Conant from Clark, turn left into the 1st driveway. Bldg O2 is
the 2nd building on the right .

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 Long Beach Branch

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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

