



Vantage

Women's Rights and Assistance

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

WomenShelter was incorporated in 1977 by Dr. Virginia Corbett, who donated the house that was used as the first supportive housing facility. Dr. Corbett was a local psychologist and activist who became frustrated when she realized that her clients who were victims of domestic violence



had no place to go when they wanted to leave their batterers. The 4-bedroom, 11-bed supportive housing facility was one of the first in Southern California, part of a growing movement to provide assistance for battered women and their children.

WomenShelter was originally funded by CEDA, a federal grant program. Staffed by a dedicated group of women, many survivors of domestic violence themselves, WSLB was a safe haven for women and their children. There were no offices or outreach center then. In fact, the staff worked from TV trays in the house's living room.

In 1984, WomenShelter moved into a new building, which continues to serve as the agency's 10-bedroom, 31-bed supportive housing facility. A new supportive housing facility is under construction.

During the '80s and '90s, WomenShelter began offering individual counseling, group counseling and other support groups in community centers, including Houghton Park in North Long Beach and St. Mary Medical Center in downtown Long Beach. There was a need for permanent offices for outreach and administration, but resources weren't available, so the agency continued serving the community in collaboration with other organizations such as the YWCA of Long Beach.

WomenShelter was under the umbrella of the YWCA of Long Beach until 1994 when it was reorganized as The WomenShelter of Long Beach (WSLB). The agency began to thrive and sought new ways to expand services. In 1999, WSLB opened its innovative community-based, storefront counseling and resource center to provide easily accessible outreach services to victims of domestic violence in the community. The Domestic Violence Resource Center (DVRC) was the first such facility in the Greater Long Beach area. The DVRC is a place where survivors and victims can come and receive non-judgmental, compassionate services, and work on empowering themselves.

Throughout the agency's history, there is one constant. WomenShelter continues to be committed to providing compassionate, supportive services and housing to victims of domestic violence.

Please join us on Saturday, Nov. 5th as Nadia Parada, from WomenShelter LB shares the history, mission and accomplishments of this important non-profit.

October is Domestic Violence Month; we'll learn what we can do to end this centuries-long struggle for many women.

Visit our Website for meeting info: <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

A reminder from our leaders:

While recruitment of new members is always a focus each year, we must also pay attention to retention of current members. Therefore, we ask that you routinely send attendance reports for your meetings and events to: Carol Clanton at r.ck.clan@verizon.net. To make it easy on yourself, you may wish to scan and upload legible sign in sheets (include event name and date) rather than typing attendees' names into an email. Please send the reports to Carol after each meeting/event.

This effort is critical because the Membership Committee plans to analyze membership participation from last year, then go forward into 2022-2023 to engage with members (particularly the newer ones) who have not been participating in branch meetings and activities. Co-Membership Vice Presidents Cacilia Kim and Jeane Caveness appreciate the efforts of their predecessor, Carol Clanton, who will be tracking the data you share. They are also grateful that Karen Gustafson has agreed to help with this pilot retention project.

Your Co-Presidents are working to engage new members and to re-engage our veteran members into committing to projects, committees, events, and the Interest Groups this year. Please respond to interested members in a timely manner and invite them to your next meeting or event. Don't hesitate to refer them to another group if yours is full. Everyone should feel included. Thank you for keeping our mission going!

Branch News

The following motions were approved at the September Branch Meeting:
Frances Rozner, on behalf of the 2022-23 Nominating Committee, moved that an exception be made for 2022-2023 to Bylaw Article IX, Section 1.e., to allow Amy La to hold the office of Financial Secretary (her 2nd and final year) while also being Co-President-Elect. The motion passed unanimously.

Frances Rozner moved that Carolyn Eggleston and Amy La, having accepted the nomination to be Co-Presidents-Elect, be elected as the 2022-2023 Co-Presidents-Elect. The motion passed unanimously.

The AAUW Holiday Party will be on **December 3** from 10-12 noon at Deloris Mayuga's home. Donation of \$15 to cover the food & drink. Bring a friend!



Calendar Dates to Note

Nov. 5	Branch Meeting
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving
Dec. 3	Holiday Get Together
June 10	Author Event with Lisa See

Contact Us

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For Vantage Editor: Rebecca Low
rlow1@hotmail.com

Save the Date: Saturday, June 10, 2023

for the annual Author event featuring best-selling novelist, Lisa See. Enjoy our "Afternoon with Lisa See" from 2-4 pm at a location yet to be determined. All funds raised support AAUW Long Beach Scholarships at LBCC and CSULB. Committee members will start working on the silent auction items and opportunity prizes. All members are invited to join the committee. Contact Ginny Baxter for more details.

Nominating Committee

by Carol Clanton, Nominating Chair

We Need You!

The Nominating Committee is already working to recruit a slate of officers for the 2023-2024 branch year! The committee is composed of Ginny Baxter (advisor), Carol Clanton (chair), Darlene Daclan, JoAnn Kuroda, Barbara Vangsness, and Sharon Westafer. We are seeking candidates for the following positions on the 2023-2024 Executive Committee:

President-Elect/Vice President, Program Vice President, Membership Vice President, AAUW Fund Vice President, Investments Vice President, Secretary.

Our dynamic AAUW Long Beach Branch depends on the leadership of its dedicated members to accomplish our goals and advance the mission of AAUW. Please consider serving on the upcoming branch board. Serving on the board is a terrific way for you to learn more about the branch and AAUW, develop your leadership skills, and grow your relationships with fellow members. You may find that sharing a position with a friend is rewarding and an effective way to share the responsibilities.

Please contact any member of the Nominating Committee to nominate yourself or someone you feel would do an excellent job. We all need to do our part to ensure our branch continues its valuable programs by thoughtfully considering a position on the Executive Committee. Be prepared for a Nominating Committee member to reach out to you about a role for which they feel you are qualified or may be interested in. Brief descriptions of officer responsibilities can be found in the *Yearbook, Policies and Procedures* section, *Item 15: Other Duties of Officers, a-d*. Don't hesitate to contact a committee member to obtain more information about each position. We look forward to hearing from you!



Calling All Volunteers for the 2023 STEM Career Conference!

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 will help with 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 at the STEM Conference, please email Darlene Daclan at darlene_daclan@yahoo.com or call at 562/673-6909.

Diversity Corner

by Tobi Balma, Member, D E I Committee

We like to think of ourselves as educated and without prejudice or biases, but unfortunately this is simply not true. One cannot grow up anywhere without learning/developing preferences or biases that we believe are natural and true. According to Isabel Wilkerson in her book *Caste, the Origins of our Discontent*, we have stereotypes, values, beliefs and expectations that are deeply embedded in our culture on multiple levels about multiple things, including people, be it their gender or their skin color that are learned behaviors, not necessarily real or realistic.

We discriminate “based on subconscious prejudgments” despite believing in equality. “By adulthood researchers have found, most Americans have been exposed to a culture with enough negative messages about African-Americans and other marginalized groups that as much as 80 percent of white Americans hold unconscious bias against black Americans, bias so automatic, that it kicks in before a person can process it, according to Harvard sociologist David R. Williams.” “Because it’s an automatic process, and it’s an unconscious process, people who engage in this unthinking discrimination are not even aware of it.”

Whether we call it unconscious, subconscious or implicit, bias exists in many areas, including gender expectations. So, what do we do about it to become better people? We need to learn about ourselves to help bring our subconscious beliefs and attitudes to the conscious level. So how do we uncover them?

One recommendation is to explore [AAUW’s DEI Toolkit](#) and the article about [unconscious bias](#). “We all have unconscious biases, too. These are biases that might be inconsistent with our values, that we would never knowingly act on and that we weren’t even aware we have. And having them doesn’t make us racist or sexist or homophobic, for example. Still, becoming aware of them is the first step to ridding ourselves of them.”

Another is for you to learn about your own implicit biases by using the [Implicit Association Test \(IAT\)](#): to “find out your implicit associations about race, gender, sexual orientation, and other topics.” Knowing about the unconscious associations and connections we hold is the first step toward correcting our biases.

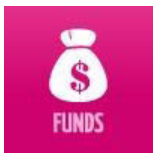
AAUW has collaborated with Project Implicit and Harvard University researchers to create a test that looks at the mental associations we make between gender and a variety of concepts, many of which affect our beliefs about [women in positions of leadership](#).

I invite you to watch this very short YouTube Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCgIRGKAbfc> And, if you want to make personal changes regarding your biases, I invite you to watch this excellent [AAUW Webinar](#) about “Unconscious Bias: Recognizing Your Biases & How to Interrupt Them.”



AAUW Fund

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



HEAR THEM ROAR! See what and who your AAUW Fund dollars support.

AAUW CA is hosting AAUW Fund Recipient Webinars where branch members can see and hear many of the AAUW fellows and grantees who are studying in California talk about their projects.

You can watch the Oct. 15, 22 & 23rd sessions as they will be posted on the AAUW CA Website <https://www.aauw-ca.org/aauw-2022-fund-events/>.

Register now for the 11/12 (10:00 a.m. Noon) Webinar at the link below

(https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ue-VsuEDRuaXTHwiTfQMuoQ)

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 Fund

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

The AAUW Fund is the tool by which our organization accomplishes its mission to promote equity and opportunities for girls and women. While there are AAUW funds that direct monies to specific categories such as fellowships, grants, and Legal Advocacy, the Greatest Needs Fund (#9110) is designed to allow AAUW the mobility to rapidly respond new and emerging challenges.

This fund allows AAUW to respond rapidly to critical issues affecting women as they emerge — whether it's a new threat to Title IX, an opportunity to partner with employers, or the dawn of a social justice movement like #MeToo. When donations are not restricted to fellowships or specific projects, we have the dollars we need to pivot as the national dialogue shifts — and receive coverage by major media outlets such as the New York Times, CNN and Fortune.

Greatest Needs is also what fuels our groundbreaking research and effective advocacy work to pass fair-pay laws and other key equity legislation. It enables us to expand the community-based, mission-driven programs, such as Start Smart and Work Smart, conduct groundbreaking research; and launch innovative initiatives to help women and girls. This fund ensures the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW into the future.

Tobi and I will be conducting a AAUW Fund drive at the November Branch meeting. Envelopes will be placed on the tables for members to make direct donations. Addressed envelopes will be available for those who would like to mail a contribution to me which I will send together to National. Donations may also be made on the [national website](#), where you will be directed to sign into your personal HUB account. Many find it easier to write a check and give or mail it to Linda. Her address is also in the directory.

While this drive is focused on the Greatest Needs Fund, members may contribute to the fund that best reflects their passion. Indicate on the Memo line which fund is preferred. If no fund is indicated, contributions will be directed to the Greatest Needs. Below are the names of Funds and their numbers:

9110 - The Greatest Needs Fund: described above

4449 - Economic Security Fund ensures livelihoods for women by achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women's retirement, programs include: Fellowships Alumnae Initiatives, Fellowships and Grants, Public Policy, Research, Pay Equity, Title VII, Retirement Security, Start Smart, Work Smart, Work Smart Online, Legal Advocacy Fund

3999 – Legal Advocacy Fund supports brave plaintiffs seeking legal redress for pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, equal pay, Title IX, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and tenure denial violations. It can inform people of their rights using the legal system to seek justice for people working toward gender equity through the legal system.

4450 – Education and Training Fund addresses barriers and implicit bias that hinder the advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination: STEM, Title IX, Pathways to Jobs programs include Fellowships Alumnae Initiatives, Fellowships and Grants, Public Policy, and Research.

4452 – Leadership Fund supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations. Career Workplace Training; Examples include: Campus Action Projects, Empower, NCCWSL

4451 – Governance and Sustainability Fund enables AAUW to function as effectively and efficiently as possible—following the latest best practices for hiring and governance and incorporating state-of-the-art technology into our member database and other systems.

4229 – Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle Special Project Fund honors the memory of longtime AAUW member, Mooneen Lecce who believed deeply in volunteerism and charitable giving, by selecting strategic, innovative gender equity projects where your gift will have the greatest impact.

2504—National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Scholarship provides access for a broader and more diverse audience to be a part of the leadership training, inspiration and networking opportunities provided during this conference / event. For 2022, scholarships are \$195 per attendee. Every contribution can make a difference and the more donations received, the more students are able to attend the conference.

BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK to the NOVEMBER MEETING!

New Member Spotlight

by Cacilia Kim, Co-Membership V.P.

New Member Dinner at the Home of Lamis Hashem

On October 20th, cherished longtime member, Lamis Hashem, continued her storied tradition of welcoming new members into her beautiful home in Rossmoor and nourishing them with a delicious home-cooked meal. Lamis outdid herself yet again with an array of mouthwatering and beautiful dishes that were a feast to both the palate and the eye.



Co-Membership VP Cacilia Kim and seasoned member Mary Lamo were also on hand to share their experiences with the amazing programs spearheaded by AAUW Long Beach that keep each of them inspired and quick to renew their membership every year.

It was a memorable fall gathering indeed! New members mingled. And laughed. Some even danced.

And everyone got to know one another just a little bit better!

Please join us for our next membership event!

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

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



Attendees: Host Lamis Hashem, Sandra Moulton, Jane Hansen, Stephanie Osorio, Tracy Sachtjen, Dawn Ide, Tracy Carmichael, Erin Murphy, Kimberly Ford, Elaine Heber, Cacilia Kim, Jeane Caveness.

Book Chat Plus Interest Group

Looking for discussions about current events, interesting books, movies, or travels? Join the Book Chat Plus Interest Group! The group meets the 1st Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. at Lamis Hashem's home. Members talk about a book they've read, a movie or play they've seen, or a trip they've recently taken. The discussions can be lively, and members take away innovative ideas for books to read or places or events to explore. For new branch members, this is an opportunity to share your ideas and get to better know some of the accomplished women in our branch. If interested, contact Lamis Hashem.

Public Policy

by Rita Powell, Public Policy Director

Midterm and local elections are incredibly important, but often overlooked, making "Get Out the Vote (GOTV)" activities even more critical this year. We need your help to make sure every voter is registered and ready.

Educate yourself on Prop 1.—The state cannot deny or interfere with a person's reproductive freedom and that people have the fundamental right to choose. A YES vote would change the California Constitution to include existing rights to reproductive freedom. Go online to AAUW-CA and take the pledge to support a woman's right to her own healthcare decisions.

PLAN: First, make a plan to vote. This includes checking your voter registration, adding voting to your schedule, and knowing your polling information (locations, hours and voting options).

ACT: Decide how to support GOTV efforts in your area. You might consider organizing voter registration drives or a candidate forum to help voters make informed decisions.

SHARE: Post on social media to energize voters around you!

Studies show that voters who plan early for how and where to vote are more likely to follow through. Our democracy works when everyone can fully participate. Motivate voters in your community today! [AAUW VOTER ISSUE GUIDE](#)

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 rriorita111@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 *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. 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 562-685-2096 / rriorita111@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.

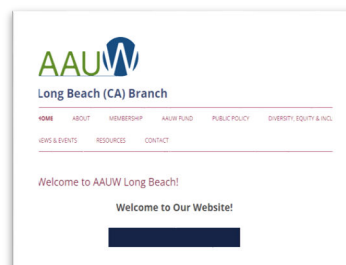
To be on the email list contact **Joan Gustafson** jwg221@aol.com or **Ellen Mathis** epmathis@verizon.net.



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!

aauwlolongbeach.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, November 5, 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

