



Vantage

A Fierce and Fearless Woman

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

March is Women's History Month!

We are delighted that we have an outstanding program for our March meeting. Dr. Judy Wu will be joining us and her presentation is entitled "Patsy Takemoto

Mink: First Woman of Color in Congress". Mink, a third generation Japanese-American from Hawaii, is the namesake for Title IX, the legislation that is celebrating its 50th anniversary and mandates gender equity for schools that receive federal funding. Join us to explore how Mink's long political career, over the course of the second half of the 20th century, reveals new insights into the history and meaning of feminism.

Dr. Judy Wu is a professor of History and Asian American Studies at UC Irvine. She serves as Associate Dean in the School of Humanities and Director of the newly created Center for Liberation, Anti-Racism and Belonging. She is the author of *Fierce and Fearless - Patsy Takemoto Mink: First Woman of Color in Congress*.

<https://nyupress.org/9781479831920/fierce-and-fearless/>



We hope to see you at our March 4th meeting! Please invite guests who may be interested in this informative program. They are welcome to attend. See the meeting information on the back page.

Reservations can be made at aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com

Visit our Website for more 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, Co-President

International Women's Day— 8 March 2023

The United Nations (UN) began the celebration of International Women's Day in 1975, and declared it International Women's Year. UN members proclaimed March 8th as the UN Day for Women's Rights and World Peace in 1977.

This year's theme is: **"DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality"**. A report will be presented at the upcoming 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-67), **"Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls"**. African Union (AU) Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs met in December 2022 in preparation for this 67th session to flesh out the theme. The 5 Key Messages and Strategies they developed were: 1) to build an inclusive digital economy; 2) to build human and institutional capacity; 3) to protect the human rights of women and girls by researching digital violence against them, and to encourage the progressive implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); 4) to promote digital trust, safety, security, and stability and finally ... 5) to build on Africa's "strategy for the digital transformation and the UN Secretary General's call for the international community, development partners and private sector to help ensure all people, particularly women and girls, are connected, supported, respected, and protected in the digital age".



Why is this important? The Commission will research the institutional gender gap on the issues of disparate economic and social inequalities. The intention will be to protect women and girls' rights in digital work and address online and cell/landline gender-based violence. By bringing women and other marginalized groups into technology, they anticipate greater potential for creativity and innovations meeting women's needs, while promoting gender equity. Excluding women from technology costs developing countries \$1 trillion in lost gross domestic product annually. Including women and girls in technology has the effect of increasing their participation in civil engagement and knowledge of their civil rights.

Like AAUW, and other gender equity organizations we're familiar with nationally, the UN has understood that, given the opportunity, women and girls can contribute to society, potentially increase the GDP of their native countries, and have successful careers in technology.

Calendar Dates to Note

Feb. 24	STEM conf at SATO
Mar. 4	Branch Meeting
Mar. 17	St Patricks Day
April 1	Branch Meeting
May 6	Spring Garden Party

Contact Us

aauwlongbeach@gmail.com

longbeach-ca.aauw.net/

www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca

For Vantage Editor: Rebecca Low
rlow1@hotmail.com

Save the Date:

Saturday, April 1, 2023 Branch meeting with program at 11:00. Come meet Hameeda, Masoma and Reema, three Afghan refugees and hear their stories of escape and resettlement in Southern California with the help of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW). Co-President, Sunny Zia will interview them during the presentation. There will be a Halal lunch following the meeting in the Foundation Building, O-2, 208 and in the room, next door. Price to be determined. There will be a vegetarian option. Reservations must be made.

Diversity Corner

by Mary Ann Takemoto, Amy La, Jeane Caveness, Darlene Daclan, Daphne Ching-Jackson

At the end of January, which began the Lunar New Year, mass shootings took the lives of 11 innocent people in Monterey Park and 7 people in Half Moon Bay. An occasion which should have been marked by celebration and hope, was instead filled with fear and devastation. Along with many other Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) individuals, many of our branch members have connections to Monterey Park. This was a tragedy in our own backyard and it impacted us deeply.



Like many, we experienced a range of emotions that included shock, sadness, anger, and grief. This was another act of violence experienced by the Asian and Asian American community. Although it was not anti-Asian hate, these experiences compound the trauma that many AAPIs have experienced since the start of the COVID pandemic (and before). Harassment, discrimination and violence against AAPIs have been well documented. We share a collective grief of AAPI and local communities that are tired of another act of senseless violence.

As an organization that fights for social justice and equity, what can or should AAUW do? How can our AAUW allies be helpful to AAPI members who may be struggling with the trauma of recent events? Branch leadership and allies can acknowledge the tragic events and check in with compassion and empathy to support those individuals who may be impacted. Just being present, listening and not conducting "business as usual" can be a first step. Supporting organizations that serve the impacted community is another step. Working with legislators to take meaningful steps for short- and long-term solutions to prevent and address all forms of violence is another option.

We know that the AAPI community is not alone in facing senseless violence, hate and discrimination as recent media images of police brutality have clearly portrayed. This is not a new phenomenon. We affirm that we are all partners in this together and must be part of the solution. Progress in social justice must include other communities of color and the white community. AAUW is a microcosm of the larger community. We must engage in open and honest dialogue to have a more inclusive organization.

The next AAUW Diversity Committee will meet on March 25th at 11 am by Zoom. Please contact Mary Ann Takemoto (martakemoto@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us. We welcome your participation!

Board/Branch Business

Anne Supple & Harriet McDonald, Co-Secretaries

The motions below were passed unanimously at the January 23, 2023 Board of Directors meeting:

* By direction of the Budget Committee, Treasurer Patricia Ferrer, moved that the board accept the recommended changes to the Budget approved at the June 2022 Branch Meeting.

1. Increase income for the Building Fund to \$2,300 to reflect accrued interest to be earned this fiscal year on 9 month CD invested 12/20/2022 for 9 months at 4.7%, 2. Increase the cost of the PO Box to \$216--the amount billed and paid in January. 3. Increase the Rent \$185.90 to reflect transferring the cost of Zoom from General Fund/Program to Building Fund/Rent (\$149.90) and revised estimate for IT support during the use of LBCC facilities for branch meetings to \$1,669.90. 4. Decrease Courtesy to \$0 to cover higher priority expenses. Eliminate sending birthday cards. No voucher received the last two years; 5. Increase AAUW Fund Assessment to amount paid, \$65; 6. Eliminate LACIC Dues as dues will not be charged this year; 7. Increase Liability Insurance \$56 to amount paid \$547; 8. Increase Vantage Postage estimate \$53 to cover full estimated cost if voucher submitted to \$117; 9. Increase Vantage Printing estimate \$144.38 to reflect increase number of copies printed to date to \$303.88; 10. Increase Yearbook Printing estimate \$73.65 to reflect the actual cost of printing to \$523.65, 11. Decrease Program \$149.90 to reflect transfer of Zoom costs to Building Fund and \$15.63 to balance the overall General Fund budget.

* Patricia Ferrer, Treasurer, moved that the \$4,500 in funds for the Title IX celebration be transferred to the reserve fund as they are no longer needed.

The following motion was presented and passed at the February, 2023 Branch Meeting:

* By direction of the Executive Board, Frances Rozner moved that the Branch approve the following change be made to **Bylaws: Article IX. Nominations and Elections; Section 1. Nominations; a.:**

From: a. There shall be a nominating committee of at least five members, consisting of the Immediate Past President as Advisor with the remaining four members and a committee chair appointed by the President. The first meeting shall occur no later than October 1 each year.

To: a. There shall be a Nominations Committee of at least five members, with a Committee Chair appointed by the President. The Committee shall consist of the Immediate Past President as Advisor with the remaining four (or more) members recruited by the Committee Chair. The first meeting shall occur no later than October 1 each year. No second required. The motion passed.

AAUW Fund

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

AAUW Fund - Economic Security Fund (4449)

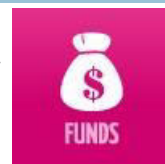
Money is power, and women will never be equal to men until they achieve full parity in earnings and wealth. American women have made strides toward economic equality, yet men continue to earn more money and accumulate greater wealth than women which has consequences for women throughout their lives and into retirement.

The median salary for women is just 83% of the median salary for men. This disparity has not improved much over the past generation. Median earnings for American women working full time are \$45,097, while men are paid \$55,291. Yet women make up close to 47% of the workforce, and as many as two-thirds are primary or co-breadwinners of their families. Also, the number of women who remain single has been increasing over the years.

The gender pay gap begins as soon as women enter the workforce. Because women earn less than men, they accumulate less wealth during their careers. As a result, they receive about 80% of the Social Security of men. Women's pensions on average is 76% of men's. Women's overall retirement income including Social Security, pensions, and other sources of income is only about 70% of that of men. This can leave women vulnerable throughout their retirement.

AAUW, through the Economic Security Fund, works to promote greater financial equality throughout women's working lives in several ways, such as [START SMART](#) and [WORK SMART](#) which trains women in leadership and negotiating skills so they can maximize their earning potential. Another example can be seen in the sponsoring and supporting of legislation such as the Paycheck Fairness Act, Family and Medical Leave Act.

We, as members of AAUW Long Beach, can be proud of our collective contribution to the economic empowerment of women.



Career Development Grants



Name: Vanessa Muniz

Award Year: 2022-23

Award: Career Development Grant

Institution: Texas A & M University, Kingsville

Location: Kingsville, Texas

Discipline: Social work

Degree and Specialization: M.S.W., Mental Healthcare and Wellness in Hispanic Populations, Research, Community Advocacy

Vanessa Muniz's research focuses on issues of health care and mental well-being among the Latino population of South Texas. Prior to pursuing her graduate degree in social work, she worked in public service for more than 13 years with the Social Security Administration. She plans to continue her education toward clinical licensure and a doctoral degree and to continue advocating for the needs of those underrepresented in South Texas.

Sponsors:

1251 - Tyler (TX) Branch/Gladys B. Howard

1255 - Kathryn M. Jefferson

1286 - Jeannette Pool

1315 - Lorena Allen Alexander

1472 - Polly Orcutt

1558 - Juanita Cole

1832 - Patricia Haverty

1835 - Connie Wright Inskeep

Vanessa Muniz is a Career Development Grant recipient funded in part from our Connie Wright Inskeep Research and Projects Endowment, which was established in 1995.

This grant provides \$2,000-\$20,000 in funding to women who hold a BA degree and are preparing to advance or change careers or re-enter the workforce in education; health and medical sciences; science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); or social sciences. Primary consideration is given to women of color and women pursuing their first advanced degree or credentials in nontraditional fields. Funds are available for tuition, fees, books, supplies, local transportation and dependent care.

Grants support course work beyond a BA degree, including an MA, second bachelor's degree, certification program or specialized training in technical or professional fields. Course work must be taken at a college /university in the US or at a technical school that is licensed or accredited by the U.S. Department of Education. Funds are not available for doctorate-level work.

Branch Board Election by Carol Clanton, Nomination Committee Chair

2023-2024 Proposed Slate of Elected Officers from the Nominations Committee

The following is the proposed 2023-2024 slate of Elected Officers. This slate will be voted on at the Annual meeting to be held on April 1, 2023. We will take nominations from the floor prior to the vote with the consent of the nominee. You may contact a member of the Nominations Committee to nominate a member to serve as President-Elect or to make additional nominations for the elected offices listed here. **Nominations Committee:** Carol Clanton (Chair), Darlene Daclan, JoAnn Kuroda, Barbara Vangsness, and Sharon Westafer

2023-2024 Board Nominations with Continuing Officers

Co-Presidents (by succession): Amy La & Carolyn Eggleston

President-Elect/VP: *vacant*

Program VP: Sharifa Batts

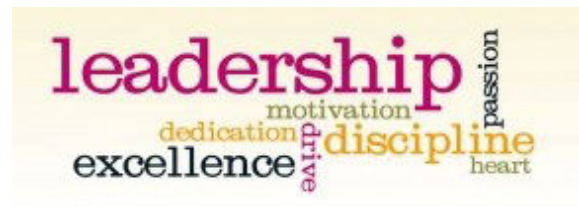
Co-Membership VPs: Karen Gustafson & Lamis Hashem

Co-AAUW Fund VPs: Tobi Balma & Linda Westman

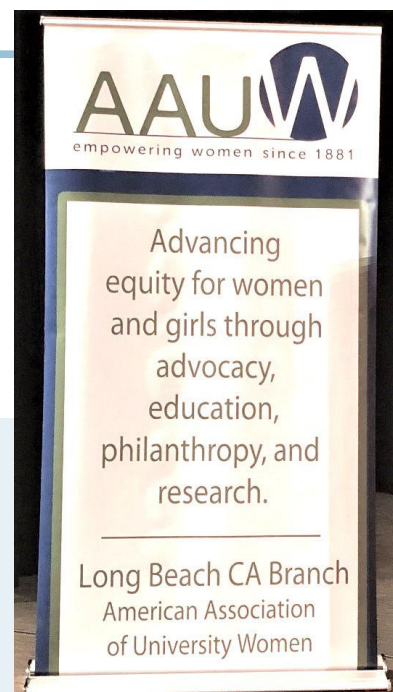
Co-Investments VPs: Virginia Baxter & Deloris Mayuga

Treasurer (continuing term): Patricia Ferrer

Co-Secretaries: Cacilia Kim & Harriet McDonald



Scholarship Recipients



Member Spotlight

by Co-Membership VPs Jeane Relleve Caveness, Ph.D., Cacilia Kim

Spring is almost upon us members! It is the season for new growth, new beginnings and new relationships!

To celebrate the season, Membership is hosting a SPRING FLING on April 27th at the home of Jeane Caveness, and weather permitting, the event will be held in her lovely backyard. It will be an evening of food, fun and an opportunity to become more familiar with the beautiful programs and activities of our Branch in a more intimate setting. We hope that a Thursday evening will accommodate those with busy weekend schedules that do not permit attendance at our May Garden Party.

So please let us know if you have a friend, colleague or neighbor who might be interested in joining AAUW Long Beach. We would love to meet them at our Spring Fling! Email cacilia767@hotmail.com and we'll send them this lovely invitation.



Public Policy

by Rita Powell, Public Policy Director

Act — Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment

It's hard to believe the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was first introduced into Congress 100 years ago, with the goal of guaranteeing equal legal rights for men and women under the U.S. Constitution. By 1977, the ERA was ratified by 35 of the necessary 38 states. However, because Congress imposed an arbitrary deadline to complete ratification by 1982, the ERA could not become law when the final three states ratified it years later (Nevada in 2017, Illinois in 2018, and finally Virginia in 2020).

With your help, we can change that. On January 24, Sen. Cardin filed S.J. Res. 4 to remove the ratification deadline. The Senate used a procedural move called Rule XIV to allow the bill to be added to the Senate calendar and brought for a vote, bypassing the Committee process. Soon after, on January 31, Rep. Pressley introduced a similar bill in the House (H.J. Res. 25). If passed, these measures would allow Nevada, Illinois and Virginia to count toward ratification, and the ERA would finally become the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Women cannot wait for equality any longer. [Urge Congress to support S.J. Res. 4/H.J. Res. 25!](#)

Engage — Share the important work we're doing

This year Equal Pay Day is on March 14, representing how far into the year women working full-time, year-round must work to be paid what men were paid the previous year.

Sign up as a [Two-Minute Activist](#) today and keep up to date on our policy work with our letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs to learn more about AAUW's positions and advocacy efforts.

United State of Women

In the big picture, AAUW is one of a broad coalition of women's organizations. Under the umbrella of United State of Women* (USOW), AAUW joined as one of more than a hundred signatory organizations in an open letter to the US Congress in the fight for Gender Equity. The five main demands are to: **Protect health, reproductive freedom, and bodily autonomy; Ensure economic security for women and families; Advance policies to reduce gender-based violence; Advance democracy, voting rights, and gender equality; and to Advance justice for immigrants and their families.**

The complete letter, with Individual points, including publishing the ERA, can be found at <https://usow.org/118thcongress/>. We are part of something huge, while being local advocates to bring these five demands to fruition.

**Mission of USOW - The United State of Women aims to create a world in which women and all people of marginalized genders can thrive. Through education, community, and action, USOW amplifies issues at the intersection of gender and racial justice and galvanizes organizations, public figures, elected officials, and everyday feminists of all genders to drive policy and culture change*

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 March is *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng. We share this information so even if you aren't able to join us, you have reading suggestions. At this time, we are at capacity, however if you would like to be added to a waiting list, contact **Sharon Westafer**, 562-493-4749.



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

Save the Date: Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 2:00—4:00 "An Afternoon with Lisa See"

All funds raised support AAUW Long Beach Scholarships at LBCC and CSULB.

All members are invited to join the planning committee. Volunteers are needed to gather silent auction items and opportunity prizes. Planning meetings start in Feb. to determine theme and cost.

Contact Ginny Baxter at ginnysgetaways@gmail.com for more details or to help.

NEW! Please RSVP by email to Reservations Chair Charlotte Joseph to let us know if you will attend in person or opt for the Zoom version.

Use this email address from now on!
aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com

Deadline to RSVP is February 28th.
You will receive an email reminder and details about the location before the meeting.

Important COVID-19 Reminder

In-person meetings may be held with respect for local guidelines. Please follow your own health and Covid prevention practices.

AAUW BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, March 4, 2023

9:30 am	Meet and Mingle
10:00—10:45 am	Branch Meeting
11:00—12:00 pm	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.



AAUW Long Beach Branch

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

PLEASE
PLACE
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HERE

