

Vantage

Inspiration at Ramadan

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



Rene Roberts-Nijinsky describes herself as a wife, mother, teacher, and athlete. This is no ordinary feat as Rene was born 10 weeks premature with Severe Spastic Cerebral Palsy. At birth, doctors doubted if Rene would ever walk, talk or become educated. She has far surpassed these expectations and will share her story of triumph with you at the AAUW April Branch meeting!

Rene was born and raised in Long Beach and cur-

rently lives in Lakewood. She attended local public schools and earned her bachelors in Communications from CSULB. She then went to CSU Dominguez Hills and was awarded a MA in Inclusive Education! Rene is married, has 2 grown sons. and one precious granddaughter.

Rene served as an elementary school teacher for 28 years and taught Special Education part-time for 20 years at Cerritos College. She advocates for the disabled, is an author, and is a passionate Dragon boat pad-

dler and coach. Rene recently started a new dragon boat team in Long Beach called Team Synergy, which focuses on the inclusion of all! Some paddlers



have physical disabilities, and are hard of hearing. Team Synergy represents the interaction and inclusion of 2 or more groups in order to produce a result greater than the sum of its separate parts!

We hope to see you at our April 1st meeting! Guests are welcome to attend the program at 11:00. Included will be a special Guest Speaker for a discussion of the Ramadan holiday and there will be a Halal lunch with vegetarian option following the meeting in the Foundation Building, If you wish to stay for lunch, please be sure to RSVP and make your check for \$20 payable to AAUW Long Beach, and send them to Amy La no later than 3/28/23. You may also pay via Zelle or PayPal. 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

Earth Day is on Saturday April 22, 2023

Men were the early environmentalists of their day, however, there are a number of influential women who have taken an interest in science, ecology, education, justice for marginalized communities, and grassroots activism. Two such women are included on the AAUW National website – **Graciela Tiscarno-Sato** and Rachel Carson. Others are noted below.

Beginning with Graciela, she was inspired to write a book in 2011, following the 2008 recession, entitled, "Latinnovating: Green American Jobs and the Latinos Creating Them". The book takes the reader inside businesses innovating, developing sustainable business practices, and businesses being transformed by Latinx owners and workers. Graciela was an Air Force Captain, who won an AAUW Career Development Grant.

Perhaps marine biologist **Rachel Carson** is a more recognizable name. Her famous 1962 book, "Silent Spring" challenged the dangerous indiscriminate use of chemicals and pesticides, and was harshly rebuked by the chemical industry. She became known as the "mother of modern environmentalism. Rachel received the AAUW 1956 Achievement Award.

The youngest person on this influential list of environmentalists is **Mari Copney**, age 15, who is known for her letter written to President Obama asking him to get the government to approve \$100 million to help resolve Flint, MI's water supply contamination of heavy metals. "Little Miss Flint" advocates for poor neighborhoods who are subject to continued toxic exposures and marginalization.

Wawa Gatheru, a Kenyan-American activist, Rhodes scholar, and nonprofit leader set up Black Girl Environmentalist (BGE) to empower black girls, women and non-binary people within the environmental movement. She's been a strong advocate of intersectional environmental advocacy and communication.

Leah Thomas is the author of "The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle Systems of Oppression and Protect People + Planet". Like Wawa, her interest is the importance of intersectionality within the climate movement. She believes that you must save the earth and its inhabitants and the same time.

Now that the large environmental groups have been forced to open their membership to include women, people of color, LBGTQ+ people, and immigrants, there's no doubt the positive and stronger impact there will be with a joining of the minds for creative solutions to the issues connecting these like-minded leaders together to make Mother Earth a healthier place for you and me. **Enjoy a hopeful Earth Day 2023.**











Calendar Dates to Note

Mar. 17 St Patrick's Day
April 1 Branch Meeting
May 6 Spring Garden Party
June 3 Meeting /Installation
June 10 Afternoon with Lisa See

Contact Us

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

STEM Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

Thank your
Linda, your
Class was fun!
I adored learning
about marine biology
and had a blast
looking at the planktons. Thanks
to AAUW as well
for this wonderful
oppritunity.

and your hospitality.
This conference
has made me
think a lot
about my future
and what I
want to do
when I get
older. Thank
you very much!
yours truly,

Connie Inskeep Leadership Award by Tobi Balma, Chair

We will be honoring the Connie Inskeep Leadership Award winner at our June branch meeting and we need your help to identify a worthy nominee. Please submit your nomination by the April 30, 2023 deadline. There are several ways to send your nomination:

~Use this new Google Form, ~ Email directly to Tobi Balma ~ Complete a form and mail the nomination to Tobi Balma (whose address is in our directory).

Connie served as President, or Co-President of the Branch three times. She was an outstanding leader who demonstrated her love for AAUW by serving in leadership positions at the Branch. Interbranch Council and State levels. Her dedication and commitment to AAUW were inspirational to all who knew her. Any of the 3 criteria listed below, either solely, or in combination is acceptable to justify your nomination:

- Demonstrates leadership in the Branch that is consistent with the mission of AAUW, i.e., advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.
- Demonstrates leadership at the Los Angeles Interbranch Council (LACIC)
- Demonstrates leadership at the AAUW California or National level

Prior recipients of this award (in order received) are: JoAnn Kuroda, Joyce Clark, Jean Aldrich, Judith Kaho, Fay Denny, Deloris Mayuga, Daphne Ching-Jackson, Betty Ann Rauch, Joan Gustafson, Barbara Gleason, Ellen Mathis, Norma Grady, Elaine Babbush, Julie Mills, Sharon Westafer, Helen Sebring, Patricia Ferrer, Linda Patten, Linda Silver, Frances Rozner, Darlene Daclan, Dianne Bradfield, Cacilia Kim, Mary Lamo, Flo Pickett and Tobi Balma.



Board/Branch Business

Anne Supple & Harriet McDonald, Co-Secretaries

The following 3 motions were presented and passed at the November 21, 2022 Board Meeting:

Frances Rozner moved that the Executive Board recommend to the Branch 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. The motion passed.

Frances Rozner moved that the following change be made to

Policies and Procedures: 13. Nominations Committee, a. and b.:

a. The President shall make appointments to the nominating committee by no later than August 1. The President shall appoint the committee Chair.

b. The immediate past Membership Vice President shall be one of the appointed members of the nominating committee.

a. The President shall appoint the Nominations Committee Chair by no later than August 1. To:

b. The Immediate Past Membership Vice President shall be one of the members of the Nominations Committee. The motion passed.

Frances Rozner moved that the following change be made to

Policies and Procedures: 15. Other Duties of Officers, a. President. ix.:

From: ix. Shall appoint members to the nominating committee.

ix. Shall appoint the Chair of the Nominations Committee. The motion passed.

The following motion was presented and passed at the March 4, 2023 Branch Meeting:

Jane Hansen moved that the AAUW Long Beach Branch Facebook Page be changed from its current format to a new group page. Tobi Balma seconded the motion. The motion passed.

AAUW Fund

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

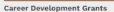
Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle Special Projects Fund (#4229)

The Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle (MLGC) honors the memory of longtime AAUW member, Mooneen Lecce who believed deeply in volunteerism and charitable giving. Members of this Circle of philanthropists support strategic, innovative gender equity projects where their gifts will have the greatest impact. It strives to contribute to projects that the current AAUW budget cannot fund.



One project is focused on the question: why so few women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics? To find answers and develop strategies to change this situation, AAUW issued a report that examines the reasons why there are relatively few women in STEM professions funded by the Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle as well as the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. The report, <u>Why So Few?: Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics</u> looks at research findings that point to eight environmental and social factors — including stereotypes, gender bias, and the culture of science and engineering departments in colleges and universities — that serve as barriers to women's participation and progress in STEM professions. The report also contains statistics on girls' and women's achievement and participation in STEM areas as well as suggestions for how to make the fields more open to all individuals. With this knowledge and understanding of the barriers, AAUW with the support of the Mooneen Lecce Fund can develop and implement programs to bring greater equity and representation of women and girls in STEM education and professions.

The MLGC has also been critical in contributing to numerous AAUW research initiatives; including women facing discrimination, AAUW's Work Smart Online Initiative, "Limiting our Livelihoods" dealing with sexual harassment in the workplace, "The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap," and the 2020 Get Out the Vote Campaign. Interested? Please speak with Tobi Balma, Frances Rozner or Sharon Westafer who are members of this Giving Circle. And check out this <u>Video</u> and this <u>link</u>.





Name: Lea Wolf Award Year: 2022-23 Award: Career Development Grant Institution: University of Minnesota, Duluth

Location: Duluth, Minnesota

Discipline: Social work

Degree and Specialization: M.S.W.,

Lea Wolf is an Ojibwe woman from the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe. After spending 15 years supporting families as a doula, she is returning to school to pursue a master of social work degree with the ultimate goal of working in tribal communities as a mental-health professional. She is passionate about modalities that center each person's ability to find healing within themselves and their communities.

Clinical Social Work

Sponsors:

1231 - Virginia Cutler, Ettie Lee and Bessie Kotzin

183 4129 - Oakland-Piedmont (CA) Branch/Mary Hively

4130 - Long Beach (CA) Branch/Ethel P. Black

4173 - Auburn (CA) Branch

4192 - Fresno (CA) Branch Members' Memorial

Lea Wolf is a Career Development Grant recipient funded in part from our Ethel Black Research and Projects Endowment (#4130) which was established in 2005 and completed in 2008. This grant provides \$2,000-\$20,000 funding to women who hold a BA 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 bachelor's degree, including a master's degree, second bachelor's degree, certification program or specialized training in technical or professional fields. Course work must be taken at a college or university in the U S or at a technical school accredited by the U.S. Department of Education. Funds are not available for doctorate-level work.

2023-2024 Proposed Slate of Elected Officers from Nominations Committee

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.

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 Treasurer (continuing term): Patricia Ferrer

STEM Career Conference

by Mary Lamo & Frances Rozner, Conf Co-Chairs



The 2023 event had three more schools involved than last year, the new high school and middle school dismissals created a challenging arrival dynamic and it was the wettest, windiest, coldest day of a winter storm passing through. However, thanks to 52 volunteers, and a very helpful Sato Academy staff, it was highly successful. Prior to starting, AAUW LB Co-President-Elect Amy La led the girls in a breathing exercise followed by an infomercial by Gabriel Gaete of the LB Public Library for the SEED project. Then

Principal Ronnie Coleman welcomed 233 girls with 27 Chaperones and 25 guests/sponsors to Sato Academy, followed by an AAUW welcome from Branch Co-President, Denise Montoya. Guest Diana Craighead, President, LBUSD Board of Education and sponsor representatives were recognized. The Keynote Speaker, Leslie Gonzalez, a Developer with Technology Management Consultants, shared her impactful story overcoming personal struggles on her road to a successful career she loves.

Each girl then attended two 40-minute workshops led by women in STEM careers. The workshops, with fun hands-on activities, were presented by:

- ♦ Architect Stephanie Osorio, Osorio Architecture
- Civil Engineer Jennifer Rojas and Yan Zhang, Long Beach Utilities
- Construction Engineer Tenille Thomas, SCE
- ◆ Coroner Danna Bran, Orange County Sheriff's Department
- Financial Advisor Sathya Chey Patterson, Arise Private Wealth
- Marine Biologist Linda Chilton and Maria Madrigal, USC Sea Grant
- ♦ Optometrist Dr. Avani Patel, Alamitos Eye Care Inc.
- Speech-Language Pathologist Mika Storey, A Speech Storey
- Structural Engineer Kathy Rantowich, MHP Structural Engineers
- Water Engineer Chelsea Jiang, AECOM

Partnering schools were Franklin Classical Middle School, Hamilton Middle School, Hughes Middle School, Jefferson Leadership Academies, Lindbergh STEM Academy, Muir Academy, Powell Academy for Success (K-8), Robinson Academy (K-8), Stephens Middle School, and Washington Middle School. Our Conference garnered articles in five local outlets: The OC



dle School. Our Conference garnered articles in five local outlets: The OC Breeze, Cerritos Community Newspaper, LB Press-Telegram, Grunion Gazette and The Beachcomber.

- Many thanks to all the volunteers, with special thanks to the Committee Chairs and managers: Darlene Daclan, Tammy Kane, Elaine Heber, Barbara Hall, Pat Ferrer, Karen Gustafson, Jeane Caveness, Beth Lesen, Deloris Mayuga, Julie Taboada, Leila Menzies, and Jane Hansen.
- Port of Long Beach, Kirsten Larsen & Stephen Pruitt, Long Beach Utilities, MHP Structural Engineers, P2S Inc., SCS Engineers, Society of American Military Engineers/OC Post, Toyota/TABC, Inc., Technology Management Consultants and Teachers Association of Long Beach provided much appreciated monetary sponsorship. For the donation of goodie bag contents, we wish to acknowledge CISCO, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Long Beach Airport, Long Beach City College, Long Beach Stormwater, Long Beach Utilities, P2S Inc., Port of Long Beach, Technology Management Concepts, Women Influencing & Impacting Toyota.

Please mark your calendars now to volunteer for the 20th Annual Conference on February 23, 2024 when the branch takes it beyond the 3135 girls who have participated to date.

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

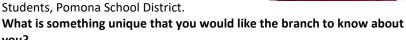
Getting to Know.... Dr. Portia Lee

How did you get connected with AAUW Long Beach?

One day, I had stepped out of my front door when I saw Frances Rozner who was walking her dog. We just started to chat and found ourselves sharing about our interests, life journeys and careers. When I discovered we were both retired, I asked Frances what she was doing in retirement. She told me about AAUW and LB branch. What a coincidence! I had been a member many years ago after I had earned my doctorate. Frances invited me to the branch's December social at Deloris Mayuga's house, and I was persuaded to sign up for membership on same day.

What is your current position or former position if retired?

I am retired, but my last position was Director, Department of Safe and Healthy



I immigrated to the U.S from Hong Kong 50 years ago and attended the University of Massachusetts. After graduation, I was awarded a fellowship with National Institute of Mental Health which enabled me to earn my Ph.D. from Florida State. When I worked for the Pomona School District, I obtained a grant to help first through third graders with an early intervention program. Years later, I worked as director of the Multi-functional Center at Cal Poly

Pomona and obtained a \$9 million grant to help school-aged children from low SES backgrounds to overcome

barriers and be mentally healthy. The grant involved multiple agency collaborations and was both challenging and rewarding.

What is your favorite activity or book?

My favorite hobby is travel all over the world. I enjoy going back to Hong Kong to visit places where I was born.



Public Policy

by Rita Powell, Public Policy Director

We are facing a critical moment. 78,000 Afghan refugees living in the United States are in imminent danger of losing their legal status. Thankfully, a solution exists. The Afghan Adjustment Act will provide a legal pathway for Afghan refugees to apply for green cards and gain permanent legal status here. But here's the problem: Despite bipartisan support and momentum, Congress FAILED to pass this critically needed legislation last year. And now time is running out on 78,000 people. For some Afghan refugees, the temporary parole they were granted will start expiring as early as July. That's why we're sending a petition to Congress right now to demand that they prioritize passing the Afghan Adjustment Act.

This legislation has bipartisan support. But without us pushing, it could fall by the wayside. So please, add your name to this petition and demand Congress prioritize passing the Afghan Adjustment Act. 78,000 people are counting on you.

Refugees are our neighbors, coworkers, teachers, and friends who make invaluable contributions to the country and our communities. They are integral members of our society, and they should not have to face the very real possibility of being torn away from everything they have built and everything they love.

Not knowing if you're going to have legal status is a huge toll on people. It leads to sleepless nights, not knowing if you can keep working or continue to access benefits. And that kind of uncertainty for people who are already dealing with so much trauma is just cruel. But unless enough of us speak out right now, Congress is going to dillydally while 78,000 lives hang in limbo. That's why it is so important to let them know that we haven't and won't forget about this issue.

So please, take 30 seconds and be a 2 minutes activist! Tell Congress to prioritize passing the Afghan Adjustment 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 tp 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 April is *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict. 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 <u>2 minute activist</u> 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 / 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 eepmathis@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 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!

aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com

Deadline to RSVP is March 25th.

You will receive an email reminder and details before the meeting.

SAVE THE DATE May 12, 2023 Cultural Adventures

Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple Tour Join us for a tour the Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple in Hacienda Heights. The bus will leave at 10:00am from the Los Altos Target Parking Lot and return to by 3:00pm. A vegetarian lunch will be prepared for the group. We'll explore a gift shop, art gallery and the grounds. Cost is \$25. Check can be mailed to JoAnn Kuroda.

Call her for reservations at 562-429-6923

Email: sojoinlb@aol.com

AAUW BRANCH MEETING Saturday, April 1, 2023

9:30 am Meet and Mingle 10:00—10:45 am Branch Meeting

11:00—12:00 pm Program

12:00 Lunch w/ RSVP

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

Building O2 is off 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 STAMP HERE

