



Vantage

Celebrating New Officers

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

“The action of leading a group of people or an organization.”

That's how the Oxford Dictionary defines leadership. In simple words, leadership is about taking risks and challenging the status quo. Leaders motivate others to achieve something new and better.



The June 3 meeting will feature the installation of the 2023-24 Board plus a recognition of past AAUW, LB Presidents. The business meeting will begin at 10 am. A light fare will be served as well as entertainment. The meeting will be held at LBCC in Building O-2, room 208. Again, reservations are a must—see the email address on the back page to RSVP. A zoom link will also be provided.

Do you have you ticket for the Tantalizing Tea Annual Author Event to raise funds for Scholarships? Award winning author, Lisa See, will be the featured speaker for our annual event on Saturday, June 10 from 1-4pm at LBCC. You will enjoy the tea as well as a silent auction, drawings, opportunity prizes and the famous money hat. Lisa will discuss her most recent book, *Lady Tan's Circle of Women*. There will be books for sale which can be autographed. If you would like to donate gift cards or other items please contact Ginny Baxter. Funds raised provide 2 - \$2500 scholarships for female students at CSULB and 2 - \$1000 scholarships for female students at LBCC.

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

I was asked back in March to submit as much information about Sharon's participation with AAUW as I could get ahold of, because she was being considered at the state level for the title of Named Gift Honoree. I scrambled to collect info from Stelet Kim, our LB Branch former Co-President, who had collected Bios from each of our members. I called the AAUW Stockton Branch and our Los Angeles County Interbranch Council (LACIC) too. Luckily, those at higher levels also had some wonderful background leadership material for me as well. Below is a brief summary of why our very own Sharon Westafer was selected as this year's Honoree for the state event presentation.

Since joining AAUW in 1992, Sharon has been a member of the Stockton Branch, where she participated in the Branch's "Reading is Fundamental". This Branch program distributed books to local elementary schools. See below for other roles she had:

- President 1999-2001; President-elect 1998-1999
- Branch Named Gift Honoree 1995-1996
- Co-VP of Program Committee 2003-2004
- Co-VP of Membership 1996-1998
- Additional leadership roles of Secretary, Fund VP, and Home Tour Chair
- Responsible for updating, printing, and distributing the Branch Directory and Discovery Brochure

When Sharon relocated to Long Beach, she took on these responsibilities:

- President 2010-2011; · Co-President 2016-2018
- VP Fund for six years
- Co-Chair AAUW Work Smart 2018-2019
- Leader and participant in branch interest groups: Literary Ladies and Book Chat
- Co-Chair of the branch's Stem Conference 2008-2016; committee member 2006-2007; current student packet and snack bag stuffer
- Scholarship Committee, helping to select scholarships for both LB City College and CSU, Long Beach students
- Volunteers to support new members as a New Member Buddy to improve participation and member retention
- Served as Nominating Committee chair
- Served as a member of the branch's Tech Trek Committee

The LACIC group welcomed her, and hard-working Sharon took on the IBC Co-Chair position, was the Treasurer, and has been a member of this year's Steering Committee. At the state level, Sharon volunteered for many years taking on the job of Fund Chair, where she coordinated the biannual

Fund Luncheons and served on the Board. She's currently the Treasurer and is a member of the Special Projects Fund at the state level.

Sharon has been on the AAUW National Development Committee for six years.

What people say about Sharon – "Sharon is unfailingly present to help with any task that needs to be done." "Her leadership style is always inclusive, and she doesn't stop until the task is completed." "She is always thoughtful, precise, and goes beyond the basics required." "Sharon is easy to work with, has patience, and is so kind."

Many congratulations to Sharon, who we are so grateful to have as a long-time leader of AAUW Long Beach! Well done, Sharon!



Calendar Dates to Note

June 3	Meeting /Installation
June 10	Afternoon with Lisa See
July 4	Independence Day

Contact Us

aauwlongbeach@gmail.com

longbeach-ca.aauw.net/

www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca

For Vantage Editor: Rebecca Low
rlow1@hotmail.com

Support for Scholarships



A Mantalizing Tea

Support AAUW Long Beach Branch Scholarships and
Meet Award Winning Author Lisa See

All proceeds pay for scholarships for Long Beach City College and California State University Long Beach. Invest in the future of promising young women.

Date: Saturday, June 10, 2023.
Time: Check-in and Silent Auction starts at 1:00 p.m. Tea and lunch will be served at 2:00 p.m. Presentation by Lisa See begins at 3:00 p.m.
Place: Long Beach City College Liberal Arts Campus room T1200. Complimentary parking is available in the parking structure on Clark Avenue. Map available at www.lbcc.edu.
Cost: \$75 per person. All funds support the event and scholarships.
RSVP: An RSVP is required by June 03 if you plan to attend.

Featuring Lisa See

LBCC Scholarship Recipients by Judy Wills, Joann Kuroda,

The Scholarship Committee is very pleased to report that we have awarded scholarships of \$1000 each to two outstanding and deserving LBCC students for the school year 2023 – 2024.



Francine Robertson is returning to school after 25 years to become a nurse. She is a lung cancer survivor. She has done a lot of volunteer work, including with the Red Cross and cooking at a shelter for mentally ill women. In her last two semesters she had a GPA of 4.0 and 3.8.



The second scholarship was awarded to **Lauren Jianuzzi**, the mother of a four year old, who also takes care of her five year old brother since her handicapped father, who also lives with her, is incapable of caring for him. She is a nursing student with a GPA of 4.0 and 3.5 the past two semesters.

Both women had excellent recommendations and the scholarships will go a long way to ease their financial burdens.

Public Policy

by Rita Powell, Public Policy Chairperson

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A local committee is planning an ERA Centennial Celebration that will include a "First Annual L.B. Women's Fair." The criteria for organizations to be invited to this Fair will be that they are "women run," support women and children, and are supportive of the ERA initiative that is still in Congress! Most of the organizations contacted are not direct service organizations:

e.g. NCJW, League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, Planned Parenthood, NARAL, and other semi-political groups such as LB Resister Sisters.



The Women's Fair will have 16+ tables representing organizations that serve the needs of Women & Girls and take place on Tuesday, July 18th between 3 and 5:00 pm in front of City Hall on the Plaza. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided. There is no charge -

a table, canopy, and chairs **will be provided**. The committee asks that no merchandise be sold. This fair **is** to be 100% free for all who attend. **AAUW Long Beach members will** set up a table at 2pm **with our** swag and brochures. Volunteers can contact Rita Powell. Hopefully, it will become an annual event, but celebrating the 100th anniversary of the ERA makes this year special. This will also be the day that the City Council approves an ordinance creating a Long Beach Commission for Women and Girls. **Please come or volunteer and bring your friends**. The City of Long Beach is our sponsor. The event is posted on Instagram & Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/538530141787738>

AAUW Fund

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

4450-Education & Training Fund addresses barriers that prevent women from thriving in school and pursuing rewarding careers. Contributions to this fund champion equal access to education and training to achieve life goals.

Girls experience gender stereotypes to varying degrees throughout their childhood which become fully institutionalized in the education system. When girls start school, they frequently encounter subtle messages about their academic abilities and future potential. Students of color and low-income families face additional biases that limit their opportunity.

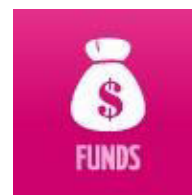
As early as elementary school, girls face barriers that ultimately hinder their achievement, particularly in math and science. As a result, they enter college, gravitating toward college majors that prepare them for lower-paying fields, and away from the STEM fields that lead to higher paying jobs. While women now surpass men in earning degrees, research shows that women are disproportionately represented in 6 of the 10 lowest-paying college majors, while 9 of the 10 highest-paying majors (all in the STEM fields) are dominated by men.

Addressing educational inequality requires an intersectional approach: understanding how discrimination based on race, gender, class, orientation, and ability compounds to create additional barriers for students.

A future of equal opportunity and equal rewards in the workforce starts with the educational system. It is critical to remove gender-based barriers that keep not only girls but all students from pursuing their dreams and reaching their potential. Schools must teach with an eye toward tomorrow's economy: The fastest growing, most well-paid sectors require technology, math, and science expertise that many female students and students of color are not getting. The education system also needs to support the demand for soft skills, such as problem solving, self-directed learning, communication, collaboration and creativity.

The gender pay gap and opportunities are not problems that suddenly surface when women enter the workforce. The roots of the problem run deep and correcting it entails understanding the barriers and biases that persist in our educational system. AAUW's Education and Training Fund contributes to rectifying this issue.

Wait for upcoming articles to learn about our 2023-2024 Fellowship Honorees.



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

by AAUW Nation and local

May is Older Americans Month. Older workers face particular forms of discrimination that limit their ability to earn a paycheck, and women are more vulnerable than men as they reach retirement due to a lifelong pay gap. On March 29, the AAUW-supported Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act (S.1030) was reintroduced, which would give older workers the tools to battle age discrimination and continue to take home a fair wage.

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.



AAUW Long Beach is committed to diversity & inclusion in all their forms. [This living document](#) contains resources for members and the community at large to learn, unlearn, question, and grow.

An Award to Note



With thanks to Janice Furman for sharing her home, AAUW celebrated a May Garden Party with members and friends. Denise gave a special salute to Sharon Westafer in recognition as State Named Gift Honoree. Congratulations and a swell time was had by all!



Member Spotlight

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

Spring Fling for New Members

On April 27th, new and potential members to AAUW Long Beach were invited to an evening dinner in the beautiful garden backyard of Co-Membership VP Jeane Caveness.

The weather was simply perfect as was the grilled chicken made by Jeane and her Grill Master husband, Rod. Members and guests mingled and noshed outdoors, enjoying the warm spring air and the unrivaled conversation of a remarkable group of women.



AAUW has changed the dues process for all new members so an annual membership will now align with a member's join date and not the AAUW fiscal year. For members who joined prior to April 2022, your membership will remain aligned with the AAUW fiscal year ending June 30.

Membership dues reminders will be sent by National and by our Branch. You can easily pay online, (the most efficient method) or you can send a check to the Branch.

Note: our annual dues will be \$118 (National \$72, State \$20, Branch \$26) instead of \$113 paid in FY23.



LONG BEACH
(CA) BRANCH



Why do we pay dues and what do we get for our dues? We pay dues to support the mission and how we choose to participate in the mission through National, California and our Branch. Plus, as members there are [Membership Discounts & Perks](#). You can learn more about [AAUW National](#) activities in '2022 Year in Review' celebrating 140 years of action. Also, visit AAUW websites for specialized topics [News & Insights](#), [Fellowships & Grants](#), [Membership](#), [Explore the Issues](#), [Get Empowered](#), [Take Action](#), and [About AAUW](#).

Thank you,
~Mary, Jeane & Cacilia

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: **Faye Alperin** or **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. Call for the June book selection. 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 / 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

Meet AAUW's History-Makers

Since 1881, AAUW members, fellows and awardees have made pioneering advances in virtually every field. Check out our "Faces of AAUW" online gallery of trailblazing women, which includes Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in 1903; Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress in 1969; current Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor; and so many more. It's the perfect way to reflect and remember AAUW's world-changing impact during Women's

NEW! Please RSVP by email to Reservations Chair Charlotte Joseph to let us know if you will attend or Zoom. Use this email address !

aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com

Deadline to RSVP is May 28th.

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

A Zoom link will be sent to those who choose the online meeting.

Need some resources to share with others that highlight the AAUW mission and goals?

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/>

AAUW BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, June 3, 2023

10:00 am - Business Meeting

11:00 am - Installation of the 2023-24 Board and Recognition of past AAUW LB Presidents

Place: LBCC in Building O-2, room 208.

Guests / Potential Members are Welcome

A light fare will be served along with entertainment.

We're Stronger Together!



AAUW Long Beach Branch

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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

