



# Vantage

## New Year, New Programs

*Sharifa Batts, Program Vice President*

Our AAUW Long Beach Branch is excited for the 2023-2024 year as we continue to advocate for women and girls and fight to remove the barriers and biases that prevent gender equity. Throughout the year, we will have scheduled topics and wonderful speakers to influence and motivate you to race with our continued efforts of advocacy.

For over a century, AAUW has funded countless women's education so they could pursue their dreams. To continue with this tradition, Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> will be our first meeting and our program will feature a brief history of the AAUW Long Beach scholarship program in addition to introducing the 4 scholarship recipients for this year. Francine Robertson and Lauren Jianuzzi are the two awardees from Long Beach City College (LBCC), and Rebecca Rea and Erika Velasquez are the recipients from Cal State University Long Beach (CSULB).

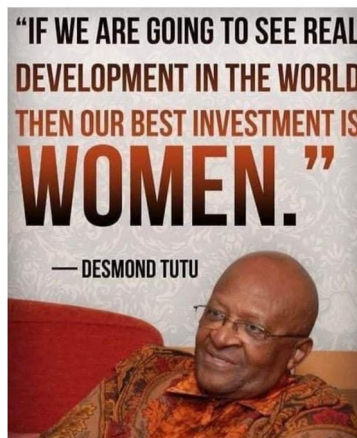
After the scholarship program, we will hear from 3 Afghan Graduate student women who will illustrate their turbulent journey to attain their degrees. Masoma, Reema, and Hameeda have all encountered many challenges adjusting to life in a new culture while learning to improve their English and applying for asylum. They all miss their families, and they live in uncertainty until their asylum is granted. See page 4.

Guests are welcome to attend this Saturday program that starts at 11:00 AM. AAUW meeting order: 9:30 am socialize, 10 am business meeting, 11am program.

Venue: Long Beach City College, 4900 E. Conant St (Clark & Conant). Follow signs to Building O2, Room 208.

Be sure to RSVP using the link on the back page. 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 Carolyn Eggleston and Amy La, Co-Presidents

AAUW Long Beach 2023-24 fired up with some of our members participating in the Long Beach Women's Fair & ERA Centennial on July 18th. We then moved to the July 22nd board retreat, which was a productive time. We aspired for what we wanted to accomplish and made plans for the upcoming year. Fortunately for the incoming co-presidents, last year's board had organized the positions so well and had completed so much that it will be easier for the incoming neophytes.



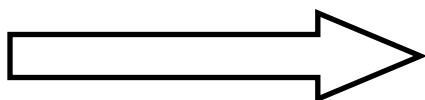
The theme for the 2023-24 year includes reconnecting with members who we have not seen in a while, as well as making attempts to garner younger members and increasing people of color in our membership. We wish to include people who represent Long Beach! AAUW Long Beach is a strong branch, and we would like to continue to improve our impact. The branch has developed several exciting and successful programs over the years. These will continue, and we hope we may develop some additional initiatives with your support.

We cannot do this without you!!! As we work with our branch, we have continually marveled as how much skill and knowledge our members possess. Please consider taking on a task; even if an elected office or continuing committee assignment is more than you can contribute, we would love for you to work on specific tasks within your expertise. We need you! More importantly, the women and girls we support need you.

To conclude, the Women's Commission for the City of Long Beach has finally been approved!!! Watch the historic moment on August 9, 2023, here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9vxDnoK07k>

We sincerely hope some of our outstanding members have applied to become one of the important commissioners! Cheers to a fruitful year ahead! We appreciate your participation!



## Calendar Dates to Note

Sept. 4	Labor Day
Sept. 9	Branch Meeting
Sept. 18	Exec Board Meeting
Oct. 7	Branch Meeting

## Contact Us

[aauwlongbeach@gmail.com](mailto:aauwlongbeach@gmail.com)

[longbeach-ca.aauw.net/](http://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/)

[www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca](https://www.facebook.com/aauwlongbeachca)

**For Vantage Editor: Rebecca Low**  
**rlow1@hotmail.com**

## SAVE THE DATE!

Cultural Adventures

Visiting the Los Angeles Central Library

Friday, October 13, 2023

Join us as we travel to the Los Angeles Central Library on Friday, October 13, 2023. We will be going by train on the A Line and/or by car. Please advise your choice of transportation when making your reservation. There will be a guided tour followed by lunch, on your own, at the Biltmore Hotel, in the Rendezvous Café. After lunch we will return back to Long Beach. There will be more information about times later.

RSVP: Deadline to make reservation is October 4.

Call JoAnn Kuroda at 562-429-6923 or email at

[sojoinlb@aol.com](mailto:sojoinlb@aol.com).

# Scholarship Success

by JoAnn Kuroda

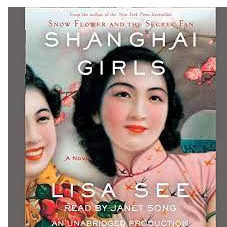
## THANK YOU FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The AAUW Long Beach Frances Magarian Scholarship Committee wishes to thank members and guests who helped make the Author's Day Event on June 10, 2023, an outstanding success. From the beginning to the end of the day, those present could feel the excitement of being on the LBCC campus. The silent auction was fun and how could you not enjoy the delicious luncheon served. Our guest speaker, Lisa See, was outstanding, because she made Chinese history come alive.

Thank you Ginny Baxter, event's chair, and the committee for presenting such a wonderful event. Those on the committee included: Sharon Westafer, JoAnn Kuroda, Erin Murphy, Julie Taboada, Linda Silver, Deloris Mayuga, Linda Patten, Fay Denny, Dianne Bradfield, Judith Kaho, Linda Westman, Tobi Balma and Charlotte Joseph. They all deserve a big thank you for a job well done. Next year we will be able to offer scholarships of \$2,500.00 to three students at CSULB and two scholarships of \$1,000 each to LBCC students. It is because of your generous monetary and moral support that we are able to continue the branch scholarship program.

## Lisa See Author Event raises \$15,000 for Scholarships

The June 10, 2023 annual Author Event featured Lisa See whose body of work centers on Asian Women. Over 140 women attended the event at Long Beach City College. They were served sandwiches and scones from Grounds by AAUW Long Beach Members who volunteered as hostesses. Almost \$15,000 was raised through tickets, opportunity drawings, and silent auction bids. Some attendees and members made donations directly to the scholarship funds at LBCC and CSULB. The committee will meet to evaluate the event. Any member who wishes to send suggestions should contact Ginny Baxter, event chair. Below are some photos taken.



# Scholarship Awards

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## LBCC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Scholarship Committee is very pleased to have awarded scholarships of \$1,000.00 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, and who also takes care of her five year old brother since her handicapped father, who also lives with her, is incapable of carrying 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 go a long way to ease their financial burdens.

## CSULB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Rebecca Rea** is a senior who is working toward her degree in Nursing. She loves children and hopes to specialize in Pediatric Nursing. Rebecca is the first in her family to attend college. She gives back to the community by mentoring other students through the California Nursing Students Association Club. Rebecca has worked several part-time jobs while in college, all while maintaining an outstanding 3.86 GPA.

**Erika Velasquez** started out at LBCC and transferred to CSULB to pursue a career in teaching. She is a single mother of four children and previously served in the Coast Guard as a health service technician. Erika demonstrated tenacity and courage as she overcame challenges as a breast cancer survivor while going to school. She makes time to volunteer to help veterans in need of medical equipment.

## Program Notes Afghan Women – An Introduction (See full article on the website)

It has been two years since our government's withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Taliban takeover. In August 2021 Masoma, Reema and Hameeda, graduate students in a master's program in agronomy at the University of Kabul, were evacuated together with their 12 classmates, other students and faculty of Michigan State University's Grain Research and Innovation project (GRAIN).

They were at risk from the Taliban for being in this USAID sponsored program. Further risk factors for Masoma were belonging to the Hazara minority group that is the target of violence and also worked for a European bank in Kabul. All three women were endangered because family members worked in the Afghan government. (After the women arrived, we learned that Masoma and Hameeda are married; their husbands are in Germany studying & working.)

Initially they were flown to Albania where GRAIN program was restructured at the Agricultural University of Tirana. After 7 months they came to the US in March 2022 on Humanitarian Parole, arriving in Long Beach in April. Supported by a Welcome Circle sponsored by NCJW Long Beach they were connected with resources and services including housing, government benefits, medical care, legal representation, and employment. They completed the graduate program with online classes and in September graduated with a Professional Master's in Advanced Techniques in Horticulture.

The women have faced many challenges adjusting to life in a new culture, improving their English and applying for asylum. They completed paid Internships with A Growing Experience, an urban farm in North Long Beach, and worked in other part time jobs. Masoma, Reema and Hameeda hoped that their education and experience will lead them to fulfilling careers where they can make a difference - like farming, organic food certification, food science, hunger nonprofits, water science, landscaping, or aquafarming. They miss their families in Afghanistan terribly and worry about their safety.



Over a year after coming to our community, the women have transitioned from the support of the NCJW Welcome Circle, are living on their own and working. Until asylum is granted, their futures remain uncertain. We hope that they will be granted asylum soon and they can move forward with their lives and contribute to our community.

See the AAUW website for the complete Introduction and Links for further information.



# Branch Business

by Harriet McDonald, Co-Secretary

## Motions passed at the Long Beach Branch Retreat on July 22, 2023.

1) Patricia Ferrer moved on behalf of the Building Fund that we close the Career Development account and transfer the balance of \$574.01 to the Scholarship Fund. The additional funding of \$2000 came from what is now known as the Reserve Fund. An additional \$500 was provided by an anonymous donor with the proviso that if it wasn't needed, it be transferred to The Scholarship Fund. As the difference is insignificant, I recommend the entire balance be transferred. Seconded by Ginny Baxter. The motion passed.

2) Ginny Baxter moved on behalf of the Board of Directors that the Interest Group Coordinator be removed. Seconded by Ellen Mathis. The motion passed.

3) Frances Rozner on behalf of Mary Lamo, Membership Treasurer 2022-2024 moved: 1) I move that the Policies and Procedures be changed to reflect the updated responsibilities of the Membership:

### Proposed updates to the Policies and Procedures

16. Duties of Appointed Officers c. Membership Treasurer shall:

i. Record all membership dues payments in AAUW National Community Hub (e.g., credit cards, online payments services; in addition, track checks and send them to the Financial Secretary for deposit to the branch account); Present oral or written reports at regular meetings of the board of directors as requested by the President;

ii. Be custodian of the membership physical records to maintain permanent membership records (e.g., card files, binders);

iii. Manage the branch membership roster in the national membership database accessible through AAUW National Community Hub.

iv. Utilizing the AAUW National Community Hub for membership dues renewal dates, send reminders to members (Note: starting in 2023 dues aligned to membership start date instead of fiscal year July 1st - June 30th; creating a year-round monitoring of dues);

v. Serve as a member of the finance committee and the membership committee.

Seconded by Ellen Mathis The motion passed.

4) Frances Rozner moved that the following changes be made in the Policies and Procedures:

Change 9. Building Fund, a. **From:** There shall be a Building Fund. Any funds raised through the efforts of the building fund committee shall be deposited into the Building Fund. **To:** 9.a. There shall be a Building Fund.

Change 15. Other Duties of Officers, e. Treasurer, iii.4. **From:** Serve as a member of the budget and building fund committees. **To:** 15E.iii.4.: Serve as a member of the budget and finance committees.

Seconded by Ellen Mathis. The motion passed.

5) Frances Rozner moved that The Policies and Procedures be changed to reflect the updated responsibilities of the Financial Secretary. Current Yearbook Policies and Procedures:

16. Duties of Appointed Officers b. Financial Secretary shall:

i. Receive all monies, except dues and AAUW Fund donations, and issue reports to the Treasurer.

iii. Serve as a member of the finance committee and the building fund committee.

Proposed updates to the Yearbook Policies and Procedures 16.b. Financial Secretary shall:

i. Receive all monies, except AAUW Fund donations, and issue reports to the Treasurer.

iii. Serve as a member of the finance committee Ellen Mathis seconded. The motion passed

6) By direction of the STEM Career Conference Committee, Frances Rozner moved that the STEM Career Conference Committee be approved to fundraise to cover the expenses of the 2024 Conference. The motion passed

7) Tobi Balma moved that the AAUW Fund be allowed to fundraise in November 2023 to raise money for the AAUW Fund. Seconded by Linda Westman. The motion passed.

8) Deloris Mayuga moved for FY 22/23 that the Endowment Fund interest, dividend and realized capital not be transferred into the Reserve Account as specified in Policy and Procedures .5b-i2.

Seconded by Ginny Baxter. The motion passed.

Harriett McDonald, Co-Secretary

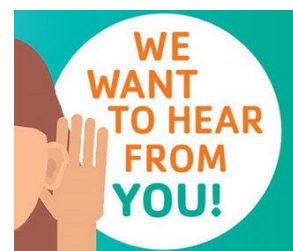
## Member Spotlight

by Co-Membership VPs Karen Gustafson, and Lamis Hashem

In the U.S., we celebrate January 1<sup>st</sup> as New Year's Day, a major holiday with parties and lots of hoopla. September is a kind of "little new year." It is a cultural sign post of important new beginnings. When we were children, September was the start of the school year, and that excitement of autumn continues throughout our adult lives.

It is also the start of the new program year for AAUW Long Beach. New officers took our posts on July 1<sup>st</sup> and there is a lot of energy to continue the work (and fun) of pursuing our goal of equity for women and girls. The theme for this year is Growth and Empowerment, and that fits the Membership function perfectly.

Every member of our branch is a recruiter of new members, to help fuel the growth of our branch. We also seek to help each new member find their "niche" in the wide variety of projects and interest groups that Long Beach Branch offers. It is true of any organization: active members feel more connected – more empowered – than non-active members. Active members are most likely to renew their memberships.



To help new members get acquainted and find their niche, we have had a "Buddy system" in which a new member is paired with a veteran member. The newcomer can expect introductions and advice for how to connect with our Branch. Each new member is asked if they want a Buddy; it is not required that they do so. The duration of each Buddy relationship is variable; sometimes it is a short orientation period or it can last longer. Friendships are formed. Members who have volunteered to be a Buddy in the recent past include Tobi Balma, Darlene Daclan, Sharon Westafer, Carolyn Eggleston, Frances Rozner, Cacilia Kim, Carol Clanton, Jeane Caveness and JoAnn Kuroda. If you are willing to be a Buddy, please let Karen Gustafson know. Then, as new members are added, the Membership team will have a ready list of volunteers of a remarkable group of women.

## AAUW Fund

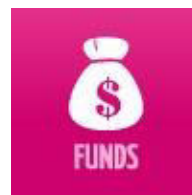
by Linda Westman and Tobi Balma, Co-AAUW Fund V.P.s

We have taken a dive in data analysis to better illustrate the financial commitment the members of the Long Beach Branch have made to advancing the mission of the organization through the AAUW Fund.

In the past year, 37 members made a total contribution of \$12,392.50 to the fund. The donations ranged from \$3.00 to \$3,050 showing that all amounts matter. The average donation was \$335.

With this data, we are setting goals for the upcoming year. 29% of our 129 members made donations to the fund last year. We have a goal to see that number increase by 5%, which would bring those donating to 44. We would also like to see the total donations increase by 5%, to \$12,922. Contributions can be made any time of year through the AAUW website. We will also be holding the annual drive in November when envelopes will be provided to donate at the Branch meeting or mailed later to Linda Westman.

As always, thanks to all our members for all you do to advance equity and opportunity for women and girls.



# 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](mailto:theHashemFamily@gmail.com)



**Cultural Adventures & International Cuisine Group** plans trips to museums and other points of interest several times a year. It is usually a mid-week tour with lunch scheduled. Plans meals at different ethnic restaurants, usually dinner with an easy drive. Join a group that checks out museums, other interesting locations, and special restaurants.



Contact for Adventures: JoAnn Kuroda at 562- 429-6973 / [sojoinlb@aol.com](mailto:sojoinlb@aol.com)  
Contact for International Cuisine: Faye Alperin at 562-659-0051/ [fayealperin@gmail.com](mailto:fayealperin@gmail.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:riorita111@verizon.net)



**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 September book selection is **The Christie Affair** by DeGramont. 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](mailto:riorita111@verizon.net)



The **Residential Rentals group** started in 2009 with a monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:jwg221@aol.com) or **Ellen Mathis** [epmathis@verizon.net](mailto: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

**International Cuisine committee is announcing its first dinner.**

Friday, November 3, 6:30 pm.

**Nomad (at The Marketplace)**

[6563 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach 90803](https://www.google.com/maps/place/6563+E.+Pacific+Coast+Highway,+Long+Beach,+CA+90803/@33.77488,-118.11488,15z)

RSVP to Faye Alperin, 562.659.0051 [fayealperin@gmail.com](mailto:fayealperin@gmail.com)

More details coming in October.



**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](mailto:aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com)

**Deadline to RSVP is September 2.**

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, September 9, 2023**

**9:30 am - Mingle and Social Time**

**10:00 am - Business Meeting**

**11:00 am - Program**

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

**Near Conant and Clark Ave.**

**Guests / Potential Members are Welcome**

BYO refreshments as desired

*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

