



Vantage

Celebrate the Holidays

Sharifa Batts, Program Vice President

Join fellow AAUW members and guests in kicking off the Holiday Season with a gathering on Saturday, December 2 from 10 am—12 pm.

Charlotte has graciously hosted this annual event in years past and offered her lovely home again, despite not being able to attend due to another important meeting! To make catering easier, members are asked to contribute \$15 to cover purchased food and drink. In addition, past presidents will sign up to serve the coffee and wassail (an old historic drink customarily served during this season). Contact Sharifa Batts to volunteer for 20-minute hosting intervals. Try some, you'll like it!

We also need volunteers to set up and clean up. In addition to the traditional fare, we intend to serve foods that are vegetarian and vegan friendly. RSVP to Charlotte Joseph by November 27 (see link below) Send in your \$15 via Zelle or Pay Pal to aauwlolongbeach@gmail.com or pay at the door. Looking forward to seeing you and some potential new members. Guests are welcome to attend this event and it can be a fun way to introduce people to AAUW.



RSVP at: aauwlolongbeach.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 Carolyn Eggleston and Amy La, Co-Presidents

Hello friends and colleagues!!

As our holiday season is starting soon with Thanksgiving, it is important to remember to be thankful. The world seems like it is unbalanced and scary. We can feel like we are impotent to do anything about it.

I hope that most of you were able to attend October's branch meeting or viewed it after the fact. Our own Amy La gave a talk on mental health issues after Covid. She included a number of self-care techniques and strategies to help ourselves. Too often we provide so much care to others, we forget to support ourselves. Many of us have raised children, been (or still are) care givers for others or have other obligations. These undertakings can deplete us. Our volunteer efforts with AAUW and other groups feeds us in many ways, but does require that precious commodity, time. So, self-care as Amy mentioned, is critical. We need to do activities that support us, like walking, reading, exercising, yoga, and most precious, have time for ourselves. In the fervor of holiday activities, that can seem impossible. But we need to make sure to take that time, or we can't help others. Our mission to help women and girls is imperative, and we need to be in it for the long haul.



This is also the season for giving. We have a very strong branch in the Long Beach area. The activities we generate require money as well. If you are able to support AAUW in a financial way, please do so. It is needed. We also understand if this is not possible. There are a number of areas to which you can contribute. The AAUW Fund is very valuable to support as it guides our future. We also have specific activities like student scholarships, the STEM Conference, Authors Luncheon, to name a few. Also, please consider adding AAUW Long Beach to your bequests so this important work can continue after you are gone.



Amy and I wish the very best for you during this holiday season, and hope that you may spend time with family and friends. We so look forward to seeing you at the holiday gathering on Dec. 2!!! Be there or be square! Happy holidays!

Calendar Dates to Note

Nov. 23	Thanksgiving
Dec. 2	Holiday Party /
Dec. 7—15	Hanukkah
Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Dec. 31	New Year's Day
Jan. 6	Branch meeting

Contact Us

aauwlongbeach@gmail.com
longbeach-ca.aauw.net/

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

CALL FOR 2024-25 CANDIDATES FOR THE AAUW CA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are looking for enthusiastic, committed, and proven leaders to serve on the AAUW California Board of Directors. How about you, or is there someone you know with leadership talent?

We seek candidates for:

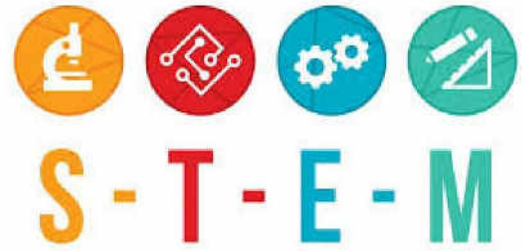
- Secretary (two-year term 2024-2026)
- Four Directors (two-year term 2024-2026)
- One Director (one-year term 2024-2025)

Nomination/Application deadline: March 1, 2024
[Apply Here](#)

STEM Career Conf. 2024

by Darlene Daclan, STEM Volunteer Coord.

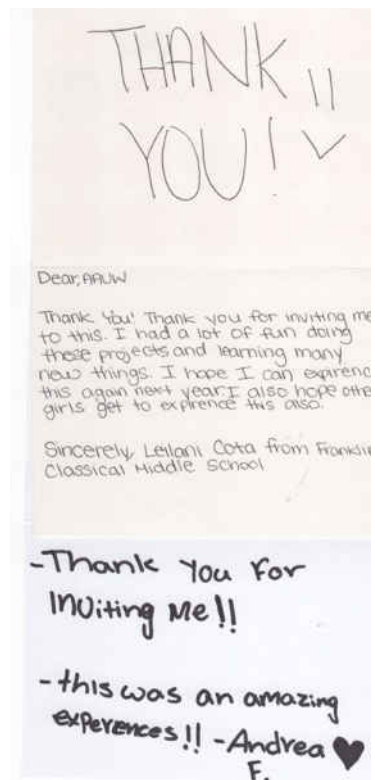
We continue to sign up volunteers to assist at the branch's 20th annual AAUW Long Beach Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Career Conference. The Conference is scheduled for **Friday afternoon, February 23, 2024**, at the Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science. The Conference provides an opportunity for 7th and 8th grade girls from Long Beach schools to participate in interactive workshops presented by women in STEM careers. From this experience, we anticipate the girls will be motivated to attend college and inspired to pursue careers in STEM fields.



This event requires volunteers to be successful. Below are descriptions of volunteer roles we are looking for:

- **Speaker Assistants:** Formerly known as a Facilitator, Speaker Assistants help speakers with their workshops and keep the classroom (and attendees) orderly.
- **School Assistants:** School Assistants help to seat the attendees in the auditorium and assist the Middle School representatives with handing out name badges, goodie bags, and snack bags. This job includes guiding the attendees to their workshops and collecting thank you cards and evaluation forms.
- **Photographer:** A photographer takes photos of key elements at the Conference. Photos focusing on the speakers presentation and workshop activities and the girls participation in the activities are particularly important. A photographer also curates, labels and provides the photos to the Chairs.
- **Goodie Bag Preparation:** Volunteers meet prior to the Conference to prepare bags for the attendees. This job includes stuffing conference goodie bags with donated items and preparing folders w/ flyers. The bags are handed out to the attendees at the Conference.
- **Arrival Greeters:** Volunteers greet the buses upon arrival and guide the attendees to the auditorium. They assist with guiding all attendees to the event locations and to the appropriate workshops.
- **Student Guides:** Volunteers assist with guiding students to the event locations and to the appropriate workshops.
- **Conference Set Up - Directing and Signage:** Volunteers post signs around the campus and classroom areas to direct attendees to the Conference. They assist with guiding all attendees to the event locations and to the appropriate workshops.

If you are interested in being a volunteer or if you have any questions about assisting at the STEM Conference, please email Darlene Daclan at darlene_daclan@yahoo.com or call/text/leave a message at 562/673-6909.



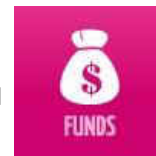
AAUW Fund

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

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Rah! Rah! Three cheers for the Long Beach Branch! Double Your Year-End Gift Drive Opportunity!

We collected over \$4000 in donations to the AAUW Fund at November 4th's meeting and additional donations to the website in November! We beat our goal for the Envelope Drive. Thank you to all of you who donated to the Fund during November and earlier in the year. Because of those members who have already donated, more opportunities for equity and advancement of women and girls have been provided. For those of you who have not yet donated and those who wish to donate more, December is an exceptional month for the opportunity to donate to the AAUW Fund. Your year-end donations will be doubled.



ALL DONATIONS TO THE FUND THAT ARE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 31st WILL BE MATCHED!

On the HUB: [AAUW.org/YearEnd2023](https://aauw.org/YearEnd2023)

If the link does not work, Angela Cooper at the National Office will help you at (202) 785-7782.

By check: Make check out to AAUW. In the notation section include the number of our branch #CA0050 and this code: YearEnd2023 Mail to American Association of University Women; P0 Box 98045; Washington DC 20077-7023

Qualified Charitable Donation from your Individual Retirement Account – Federal law allows people aged 70 1/2 or older to make direct transfers up to \$100,000 per year per person to charitable organizations from their IRA, without the withdrawal being treated as taxable income. To start, first contact your IRA custodian and follow their procedures to request a "Qualified Charitable Distribution." The check sent must be accompanied by your name and address information in order for you to receive a written acknowledgement from National.

Please provide the recipient information below to your custodian, along with our Tax ID #52-6037388. Before sending, please also notify us at planned-giving@aauw.org so we can keep an eye out for your gift and be sure to include the amount, your name, address, the designation of your gift (for example: Greatest Needs), and the financial institution sending your gift. Please direct your check, drawn on your IRA account and made payable to AAUW. Mail to AAUW; Attn: Planned Giving— IRA Distribution; 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005.

As a reminder, AAUW prefers for Donations to go to Fund #9110 (Greatest Needs). Contact Tobi to find other Funds that can be used.

Scholarships

by JoAnn Kuroda, Scholarship Fund Chair

This year, 2023, marked the 10-year anniversary of the AAUW Long Beach Frances Magarian Scholarship Program. The program was started when past president, Frances Magarian, bequeathed money to the branch to start the scholarship program. The committee has given over 36 scholarships to both LBCC



and CSULB students, enabling these students to continue their education. AAUW's goal is to enable women and girls to improve their lifestyle through education.

The committee wants to thank all contributors for their moral and monetary support to this worthwhile program.

Committee members include:

JoAnn Kuroda, Chair, Darlene Daclan, Dawn Ide, Erin Murphy, Mary Ann Takemoto, Sharon Westafer and Judy Willis

Public Policy

by Arnedra Jordan, Public Policy Chair

At AAUW, we are dedicated to shaping public policy that positively impacts women and their professional lives. To stay informed about our efforts and achievements in California, use the link <https://www.aauw-ca.org/>.

Public Policy Meetings are held first Monday of each month. Next Meeting: **Monday, December 4th, 11:00 a.m.**
Access: A consistent Zoom meeting link will be emailed to you the Friday before the meeting. Please save the link for all future meetings. Join us!

Highlighting Equal Pay Day for Native American Women - November 30th

Issue: Native American women working full-time, year-round, earn only 59 cents for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men. This disparity widens to 55 cents when considering all earners, including part-time and seasonal workers.

Our Goal: Address and reduce this wage gap through informed policy-making and advocacy.

Banned Books

Let's read a banned book together during the holiday season. Reading banned books offers a wealth of benefits, serving as a vital exercise in intellectual freedom and critical thinking. These books often explore complex and challenging themes, providing readers with an opportunity to engage with ideas and viewpoints that may be outside of their usual experiences. This exposure is crucial in developing empathy and understanding of diverse perspectives, especially in a world increasingly characterized by cultural and ideological divides.

Here is a list of my favorite banned books do we have any in common?

Join us in the effort to make a meaningful difference!

"To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee
"1984" by George Orwell
"The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger
"The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald
"Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley
"Animal Farm" by George Orwell
"The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck
"Beloved" by Toni Morrison
"Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck
"Lord of the Flies" by William Golding

GOV TREK

During seven two-hour online sessions held on Saturdays (February through March 2024), participants will engage in interactive and inspiring activities with exposure to women legislators, career options, and the inner workings of a political campaign. The program will culminate in a team competition to create a realistic campaign simulation.

Students can register online, on a first-come, first served basis. The registration deadline is January 20, 2024.

Learn more about AAUW California's Gov Trek [HERE](https://www.aauw-ca.org/gov-trek)



Find out if YOU have what it takes to run the world.

7 SATURDAYS OF EMPOWERMENT

- Engage on issues that matter to YOU! Gun control? Climate change? Voting equality?
- Interact in two-hour virtual sessions.
- Hear from women changemakers in politics.
- Work in teams to create a campaign simulation. You could be a candidate, campaign manager, speechwriter or communications director, field and volunteer manager.

Virtual

Join other high school junior and senior girls in a free virtual program to learn about careers in public service and elected office.

INFORMATION SESSION (OPTIONAL) NOVEMBER 12, 7PM

Session Dates
We'll be gathering every Saturday from February 3rd to March 16th.

SAT
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
March 16th from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Register today! Space is limited
govtrek@aaauw-ca.org
aaauw-ca.org/gov-trek

AAUW
of California

QR code

Member Spotlight

by Co-Membership VPs Karen Gustafson, and Lamis Hashem

The date for our Branch's Holiday Wassail party is fast approaching, Saturday Dec. 2nd. It is a lovely social event with wonderful food and holiday spirit, a mingling of members and prospective members. Although members pay \$15 to attend the Wassail (to cover food costs), prospective members attend for free. And if they join AAUW at the event, they will save \$36 on National dues. That is a savings of 50%. Invite your friends to come along, to experience our Branch's welcome.

RSVP to Charlotte Joseph, at aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com.

We love to see new members joining our organization. As of this writing, our Branch has 128 members and 25 of those members have belonged for at least 25 years. This kind of loyalty shows a commitment to AAUW's Mission and to the vibrant community of our Branch.

With that in mind, here is a small sampling from our members who answered an email query recently: Why do you belong to AAUW Long Beach?

Ann Supple: I joined AAUW in order to join hands with like-minded women to promote equality for girls and women in education and the world of work. The projects undertaken, including Tech Trek, the STEM Conference, and Work Smart have focused on those goals and I've felt privileged to work on those projects side by side with so many dedicated women.

Valerie Armstrong: I belong to AAUW because we advocate for women in so many capacities. We provide scholarships for women seeking higher education, training for women who are negotiating equitable pay, and STEM camp for middle school girls, along with many other worthy programs. It's unfortunate that these are still issues in 2023, but at least we have an organization that still fights for women's rights. The overturning of Roe vs. Wade shows how our fight is far from over.

JoAnn Kuroda: After renewing my membership for 50 years I realized how much AAUW has increased my leadership skills and my ability to speak in front of groups. When events and projects need help to be successful, I know that you can depend on the members' support. I enjoy the camaraderie of women of all ages and am able to discuss various topics.

Becky Low: I moved back to LB and needed to find a group to not talk work with! The bonus was the interesting programs and the AAUW focus on so many pro-education, pro-women issues.

Tammy Kane: I joined AAUW LB because of the smart, supportive women in the branch. I renew my membership because of the enthusiasm of the girls attending our STEM Conference.

Carol Clanton: I belong to AAUW-LB because it's important to me that we promote higher education as a means for women to gain greater economic security through projects like the STEM Conference, Tech Trek and our college scholarship program. Volunteering for my first STEM Career Conference was a rewarding experience, and my continuing involvement is a key motivation for renewing each year. I'm also grateful to be surrounded by well-informed, committed members who care deeply about pressing issues affecting women in our community, country and world, and who work together to help ensure gender equity for women and girls in our society. I greatly enjoy interacting with these thoughtful women during meetings and interest group activities.



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 & 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. We also plan 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
Contact for International Cuisine: Faye Alperin at 562-659-0051/ 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



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



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 November book selection is *The Life She Was Given* by Wiseman. 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

Join the International Cuisine crew as we try out

Thai cuisine at Coconut Rabbit

Friday, January 12 at 6:30 p.m. 4280 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos

RSVP to Faye Alperin:

fayealperin@gmail.com or text 562.659.0051 Hope you can make it.



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

aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com

Deadline to RSVP is November 27.

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

A Zoom link is not available for this Holiday event.

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, December 2, 2023

9:30 am **Set up and Arrangements**

10:00-12:00 **Holiday Celebration**

12:00 **Clean up**

*Join us to Celebrate with an ancient English Yuletide drinking ritual (Wassail), salutations, and a yummy brunch!
(Vegan /Vegetarian Options Available)*

Location: at the Home of Charlotte Joseph

Contact Sharifa Batts to pay \$15 or to help with setup / cleanup or hosting.

Guests / Potential Members are Welcome



AAUW Long Beach Branch

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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

