



Vantage

Tech Trek leads to STEM!

Valerie Armstrong, Tech Trek Coord., Sharifa Batts, Program Vice President

Tech Trek is a unique opportunity for middle school girls to experience a week of college life while participating in hands-on STEM lessons and activities. We should be proud of our branch for providing this opportunity to 100 deserving students since 1998. This would not have been possible without the generous donations from AAUW Long Beach members. The January 6th meeting is our annual Tech Trek fundraiser, and we hope to raise enough money to send 12 students to camp at UCSB or Whittier College this summer. Tech Trek costs \$1100 per camper.

Join us to celebrate Tech Trek campers, teachers, and volunteers on Saturday, January 6th at 11:00 am, following the 10:00 business meeting in room 0-2 at Long Beach City College.



A panel of former campers will talk about their experience and share what they learned. Attendees will also hear from branch member Stephanie Osorio, who taught Architecture at the Whittier College camp last summer. In addition, there will be a slide show of camp activities from Whittier College and UC Santa Barbara.

For those who would like to donate to Tech Trek, checks should be made out to: AAUW – CA SPF with Tech Trek Long Beach on the memo line. By donating to the SPF fund, your donation will be tax deductible. Checks should be mailed to Tech Trek Treasurer Linda Patten at 19615 Jefferey Circle, Cerritos, CA 90703. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.
Valerie Armstrong

Friends are invited; please reserve to attend.

RSVP 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 Carolyn Eggleston and Amy La, Co-Presidents

AAUW members had a wonderful time at the holiday gathering at Charlotte Joseph's home on December 2nd. Thanks to everyone who made the event special! We enjoyed Sharifa's Wassail and her fabulous sweet potato pie! It was such a great way to get into the holiday mood!

What will 2024 bring for you? Whether 2023 delivered or not, 2024 is a chance to change for the better or to maintain previous progress or gains. We hope to see more engaged members in our Long Beach Branch. Want to join our board? Volunteer for next month's STEM Conference? Want to connect and network more? Please feel free to connect with your buddy, officers, or the nomination committee. Mary Ann Takemoto, Ph.D., is our chair of the nomination committee. Feel free to reach out to her if you want to join our board and become an officer!

We are truly blessed with our veteran members with all their dedication and wisdom. We look forward to more members, particularly newer members, to take on leadership roles. Like most organizations, we want to improve the retention of our members and provide meaningful belongingness and connection. What are your branch goals for 2024? Let your co-presidents, Carolyn and Amy, know! We want to keep the branch relevant to you, our wonderful members!



Calendar Dates to Note

Jan. 1	New Year's Day
Jan. 6	Branch meeting
Jan. 16	Martin L. King Day
Feb. 3	Branch Meeting
Feb. 14	Valentines Day

Contact Us

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STEM Career Conf. 2024

by Darlene Daclan, Frances Rozner, Carol Clanton

The STEM Career Conference scheduled for Friday, February 24, 2023, is coming together: we have all ten schools now marketing the event to their students and ten workshop speakers committed to sharing what they love about their STEM Careers.



However, we are seeking a Keynote Speaker - a young woman who has overcome challenges in her pursuit of an education and career and who is willing to share her inspiring story in 15 minutes. Does not need to be in a STEM career. The earlier keynote speaker we thought we had, is now unable to commit to the date. Please let either of us know if you have a prospect.

We do need more volunteers from 2:15pm to 7pm for a variety of interesting activities: photographing the event, assisting with school arrivals and departures, setting up signage, managing traffic flow and assisting workshop speakers. We are also seeking volunteers to help with the pre-conference stuffing of folders and goodie bags on Monday, February 19, and to help prepare the Sato Academy auditorium on the Friday morning of the event.

This is our 20th Annual Conference and our third year at Sato Academy, located just east of the CSULB campus at Iroquois Ave. and Anaheim Street. Come experience the volunteer camaraderie and the excited energy of the 7th and 8th grade girls who attend. Contact Darlene Daclan at Darlene_daclan@yahoo.com or call/text/leave a message at 562-673-6909 with your volunteer preference(s). Thank you! (If you are new to this event, please check out its effectiveness at <https://www.aauw-ca.org/energizing-potential/>).

Holiday Party



AAUW Fund

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

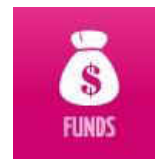
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We begin the year by thanking branch members for their contributions to the AAUW Fund. Branch Donations from January through November 2023 totaled \$12,327.40, with 65 donations, donated by 42 members. The average donation was \$190.

The break down of the specific donations is as follows:

Greatest Needs Fund: \$6,962.40; Education & Training: \$1,620; Economic Security: \$950; Mooneen Leece Giving Circle: \$600; Leadership Circle: \$500.00; Legal Advocacy: \$500; American Fellowships: \$500; Louise Arbogast Endowment: \$500; and Joyce Clark Endowment: \$500. This has definitely been a very good year for the AAUW Fund from the Long Beach Branch. We have more than reached our goal. While there are many challenges in this world, we can all be proud to know that this Branch is dedicated to bringing equity and opportunities to many women across the globe.

If you ever have a problem donating on the AAUW Website, please contact Tobi and she will help you.



Great Decisions

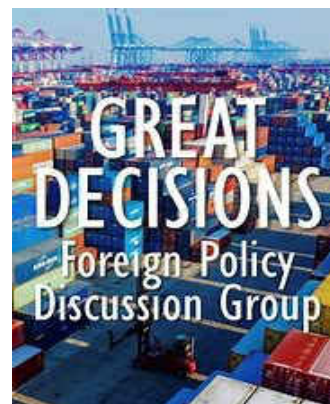
by Rita Powell, Great Decisions Coordinator

Our GREAT DECISIONS GLOBAL AFFAIRS discussion groups will be starting in January. We are ordering our books now. See below for the topics to be discussed. Are you planning to participate this year?

Contact your Group Leader or Rita Powell to order your book.

Email is: RIORITA111@VERIZON.NET

- Energy Geopolitics
- War Crimes
- China and the U.S.
- Economic Warfare
- Politics in Latin America
- Global Famine
- Iran at a Crossroads
- Climate Migration



Sandi Gabe, President, AAUW California, statepresident@aauw-ca.org

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT?

This time of the year brings celebrations, opportunities to gather with family and friends. It can also lead to an increased feeling of isolation and loneliness. A 2020 study found that social isolation and loneliness pose serious health risks for the older adult population. Social isolation has been associated with about a 50% increased risk of dementia and other serious health problems.

Do you know someone who might be isolated or lonely?

You can make a difference by giving the gift of caring. Pause the frantic holiday preparations and reach out to a friend, member, or neighbor whose social circle might be small, and share a conversation. One person. One short conversation. One amazing outcome. You'll be astonished at how good this small act of kindness can feel. I encourage you to do it.

Merry Christmas.

Public Policy

by Arnedra Jordan, Public Policy Chair

The Public Policy Team would like to wish you a Happy Holiday Season.

Monthly Public Policy Meetings

When: First Monday of each month (1st Monday is a holiday)

Next Meeting: January 8th at 11:00 a.m.

Access: A consistent meeting link is used. It will be emailed to you on Friday before the meeting. So please save the link for all future meetings.

[Gov Trek](#) has been launched by the American Association of University Women, California. This free virtual program is for young women who are juniors or seniors in high school. The goal of Gov Trek is to address the shortage of women in leadership roles by galvanizing a new generation to pursue careers in public service and elected office.

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](#)

Please share the information about Gov Trek including the flyers written in English and Spanish, social media graphics, and the **Gov Trek explainer video** [HERE](#) with anyone who you think would be interested in this free virtual leadership development opportunity.

With Gratitude....Arnedra.

NEWS from AAUW national Action Network

Everyone has the right to make decisions about their own reproductive lives without government interference. [Which is why we are calling on Congress to pass the Women's Health Protection Act \(WHPA\).](#)

Abortion access is vital to women's ability to control their lives, bodies and futures. Congress must act to protect women and all people who might need this lifesaving care, because access to critical health care should not depend on where someone lives. The [Women's Health Protection Act \(WHPA\)](#) would protect abortion care as a statutory right and prohibit restrictions including arbitrary deadlines like 6- or 20-week bans, biased counseling, and mandatory ultrasounds. These restrictions are medically unnecessary and rely on "exceptions" that as Kate's case shows, can be nearly impossible to get.

Take action now and every day until your members of Congress support and pass the Women's Health Protection Act! Without reproductive freedom, there can be no equity.



Member Spotlight

by Co-Membership VPs Karen Gustafson, and Lamis Hashem

There were 38 members at the Wassail. We all enjoyed getting together for good conversation, a variety of tasty food and the lovely weather in Charlotte's backyard. Sharifa Batts did a great job organizing the event and all the various tasks that go along with it. We also had one guest who subsequently joined our branch. Juliet Wurr is pictured on page 2, sitting with Gay Witten and Karen Gustafson. Another recent member, Judith Nast, is at the rear of the photo.

Juliet Wurr is a retired Foreign Service Officer, with postings in several countries including India and Syria. She speaks Spanish, French and "dwindling" Arabic. She graduated from UC Berkeley and Reed College. She recently moved to Long Beach from Washington D.C. Her AAUW interests include the STEM Conference, Gov Trek, Great Decisions, Public Policy and Communications.

There are many ways that prospective members find AAUW Long Beach. Juliet found us through the Internet, while others have friends who already belong to our branch. Some of our long-time members are quite excellent recruiters, meeting women in a variety of venues.

While we are waiting for our new branch brochure to be completed, I have a flyer that I can send to any member who is going to attend an event where prospective members might be present. One side of the flyer is from our California AAUW website, and the other side contains information about our branch and how to join. I can send a link to both pages, and you can print them at home.

Holiday Party



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 January 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 3rd Wednesday 10 am gatherings. It continues as a discussion group on topics relating to residential rentals – things of interest/importance/concerns. We keep each other informed. The group has averaged 10 members over the years. It continues the 3rd Wednesdays in odd months; most often meeting at the dining room table in our homes or 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

The International Cuisine crew will meet at

Thai cuisine at Coconut Rabbit

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

Our seats are filled for this event. Hope to see you at the next date.



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

aauwlongbeach.reservations@gmail.com

Deadline to RSVP is January 2.

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

A Zoom link will be mailed to you if needed.

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, January 6, 2024

9:30 am Social Time

10:00-11:00 Business Meeting

11:00-12:00 Tech Trek Program

Place: Long Beach City College Building O2, Room 208

4900 E. Conant St. LB 90808

Building O2 is on Clark, on the southwest corner of Conant, behind and to the west of Rosie the Riveter Park. Entering Conant from Clark, turn left into the 1st driveway. Bldg O2 is the 2nd building on the right .

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
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HERE

