



# Vantage

## Oversight and Accountability

*Sharifa Batts, Program Vice President*

Join us at our March 2 AAUW meeting. We are excited to have the recently appointed Director, Francine Kerridge, give an introduction to the city of Long Beach Office of Police Oversight. She will discuss the duties of the office as well as the vision for the newly created Police Oversight Commission. She will discuss the process that created the office, the authority of the office, in addition to how the office will interface with the new commission.

While reporting directly to the Mayor and City Council, Ms. Kerridge will work closely with the Police Oversight Commission, City Manager, Long Beach Police Department Chief and other City Departments, as necessary, to ensure continued accountability, transparency and input from the community regarding the direction of police oversight in the City. "I'm proud to introduce Francine Kerridge as the city's first Director of Police Oversight," said Mayor Rex Richardson.

Throughout her extensive career in public safety, Ms. Kerridge previously served in law enforcement for 19 years, and has participated in over 100 public forums to provide professional recommendations and guidance for complaint resolution. Ms. Kerridge brings to the City more than 30 years in public safety leadership and law enforcement combined.

Friends are invited to attend; please reserve for the in-person or the Zoom meeting held at LBCC 4900 E. Conant Bldg O2 #208

RSVP at: [aauwlolongbeach.reservations@gmail.com](mailto: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

It's hard to believe we are already moving so far along into the new year. Remember when we were kids and time just wouldn't move quickly enough??!!

Although we can be consumed by the distressing problems both internationally and nationally, it is imperative to remember the value of our volunteer work in the City and surrounding areas. We are doing important work in changing the lives of women and girls. It supports us and fuels our determination.

We continue to be astounded by the quality of the branch meeting programs. We hope that you were able to see February's program, where Eric Witten described his experiences being in Kenya for 6 ½ months during Covid. Eric, the husband of our own Gay Witten, took a potentially terrifying forced stay to make a successful contribution to the local Kenyan area. He put in water systems and provided many homes with propane cook stoves that reduced the need for firewood acquisition. This particularly freed village girls from hours of searching for firewood each day, and allowing many to start attending school. It also helped offset the carbon footprint with less CO2 in the air. Thanks, Eric!



If you have not yet registered for the luncheon March 30, please do so right away. It looks to be an excellent program, with Iris Yamashita describing her debut mystery novel, *City Under one Roof*. She is a fascinating screenwriter and author, and the event will be special. RSVP to Sharon Westafer.

AAUW will hold virtual lobby days April 2 and 3. Please consider signing up to support the efforts of our local and state priorities.

Importantly, AAUW will be holding a vote on the elimination of the education requirement for membership. Please learn about the issue and participate in the vote. Having your position recorded is vital. We need all of you to vote!

Thanks to all of you who do so much for our branch! We have a very active branch, and your participation allows us to do great things!

## Branch Business

by Harriet McDonald, Secretary

Karen Gustafson submitted the following motion:

I move that the Branch approves the recommendation by the board (October 2023) to purchase items for the tabling kit, not to exceed \$500. Source of the funds is the Reserve Fund.

The motion passed by unanimous vote. No second required.



### Calendar Dates to Note

Feb. 29	Leap Year!
Mar. 2	Branch Meeting
Mar. 14	MOLA outing
Mar. 30	Author Luncheon
April 2 / 3	Lobby Days
April 6	Branch Meeting

### Contact Us

aauwlongbeach@gmail.com  
[longbeach-ca.aauw.net/](http://longbeach-ca.aauw.net/)

www.facebook.com / aauwlongbeachca

**For Vantage Editor: Rebecca Low**

Find updated information at the  
Long Beach Branch Website

Click [HERE](#) to check out our Website.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the February 3, 2024  
Branch Business Meeting and  
Eric Witten's Program Presentation:  
Save the Wood Clean the Air – My Life in Kenya.

## SAVE THE DATE in support of Scholarships

### AUTHOR'S DAY DONATIONS

Author's Day, to be held on March 30, 2024, is coming up soon and we are asking for donations for the Silent Auction. Please bring the items to the March 2 branch meeting or you can call JoAnn Kuroda at 562-429-6923 to have your contribution picked up. Some suggested items are: Trips for sightseeing, wine, new and slightly used books, dinner parties from 4-6 people. Gift cards or gift certificates, ethnic items e.g. Italian or Chinese, movie tickets or concert tickets and theme baskets. Thank you for your help. ~ Ginny B.



## A Luncheon To Die For

Support AAUW Long Beach Branch Scholarships and  
Meet Award Winning Author and Screenwriter Iris Yamashita

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, March 30, 2024.  
**Time:** Check-in and Silent Auction starts at 12:00 p.m. Boxed Lunch is provided at the table. Presentation by Iris Yamashita begins at 1:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Long Beach City College Carson Campus room T 1200. Complimentary parking is available in the parking structure on Clark Avenue.  
**Cost:** \$75 per person. All funds support the event and scholarships.  
**RSVP:** An RSVP is required by March 23 if you plan to attend.

### Featuring Iris Yamashita



Iris Yamashita is a talented screenwriter known for her work in the film industry. Born in the United States, she is of Japanese descent. Yamashita gained widespread recognition for her screenplay for the critically acclaimed film *Letters from Iwo Jima*, directed by Clint Eastwood. The movie, released in 2006, provided a unique perspective on the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II, presenting the story from the Japanese point of view. Yamashita's skillful storytelling and ability to capture the human experience in the midst of war contributed to the film's success and earned her praise within the industry.

*City Under One Roof* is her debut mystery novel, set in a tiny Alaskan town where all the residents live in a single high-rise building. *Village in the Dark* is the follow-up to the Cara Kennedy series and is set to release in February 2024.

[www.irisyamashita.com](http://www.irisyamashita.com)

### A Visit to MOLAA (Museum of Latin American Art)

MOLAA was founded in 1996. It is the only museum in the U.S. dedicated to modern and contemporary Latin American and Latino art. We are fortunate to have this museum close by in the East Village Arts District of Long Beach.

Please join us for a docent-led tour for our branch on **Thursday, March 14** at 11 am. The cost of museum entrance is \$10. The International Cuisine group is working on lunch plans following the museum visit for those who are interested. Details to follow.

Sign-up sheets were circulated at the February meeting. If you did not sign up, RSVP to Mary Ann Takemoto at [martakemoto@gmail.com](mailto:martakemoto@gmail.com). Space is limited, so don't delay! This event is sponsored by the Cultural Adventures and Diversity Committees.



## Leadership Award

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

We will be honoring the Connie Inskeep Leadership Award recipient at our June branch meeting and we need your help to identify a worthy nominee. Please submit your nomination by the April 30, 2024 deadline. There are several ways you may use to send your nomination. Use this [Google Form](#) or email directly to Tobi. Members may also mail their 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, Tobi Balma and Denise Montoya.

## Public Policy

by Arnedra Jordan, Public Policy Chair

Greetings from the Public Policy Team,

I hope this message finds you well. I am excited to share that the State of California Public Policy Team School Board Project is making impactful strides! To learn more about how you can contribute locally, please look at page 3 in the latest issue of Public Policy News. This section has actionable steps, valuable resources, and important dates to mark on your calendar.

Additionally, for a deeper understanding of the vital work performed by California school boards, use the link to find details about their roles and functions. Feel free to share the article with as many people as you can. <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2024/01/public-policy-news-february-2024.pdf>

Long Beach branch members, your advocacy in advancing our legislative priorities is crucial for our branch. The Lobby Day meetings will be held via Zoom to help with the challenge of traveling. Register by clicking to become part of this initiative. [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15fW54B\\_ZWsS-mtRoxCW6j1s6005ZTSp8?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15fW54B_ZWsS-mtRoxCW6j1s6005ZTSp8?usp=share_link)

Finally, by the time you read this, I will have facilitated my first Gov Trek session for the State of California. If you want to join or support us, please see more below.

### What is Gov Trek?

Gov Trek is a free virtual program designed, delivered, and administered by AAUW California. It's for high school junior and senior girls designed to elevate the next generation to pursue careers in public service and elected office. Over seven two-hour sessions, students 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 group competition to create a realistic campaign simulation. The Jan 8th Gov Trek Information Session can be viewed [HERE](#).





# Member Spotlight

by Co-Membership VPs Karen Gustafson, and Lamis Hashem

The tagline on the home page of [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) says “Empowering Women Since 1881”. Those first AAUW women must have been somewhat unusual in their time, given their academic achievements and their concerns about the role of women in society. In 1885, a AAUW research paper disproved a prevailing myth that college impairs a women’s fertility! Their legacy is an AAUW community that includes over 170,000 people. There are over 100 branches in California alone.

Our Long Beach branch was organized in 1911 as the College Women’s Club. That was pre– WWI, at a time when there were possibly horse-and-buggies still on the streets of Long Beach.



Today, our branch has 126 members, with an average of 128 members over the last four years. An average of 41 members attend the monthly branch meetings, either in person or on Zoom. For the upcoming STEM Career Conference, there are over 40 members volunteering. We raise scholarship funds for Tech Trek and two colleges. We have nine interest groups, encompassing a broad range of activities. We have an active branch that operates in support of the aims of the national organization.

MISSION: Gender Equity and Economic Security.

VALUES: Intersectional, Inclusive, Intergenerational, Empowering, Non-partisan.

FOCUS: Economic Security, Education, Advocacy



AAUW seeks to support laws and policies that enable women’s success. Our advocacy efforts have propelled countless new laws like the Equal Pay Act, Title IX, Family and Medical Leave, Civil Rights.

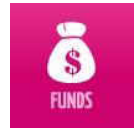
A robust research program feeds into the advocacy activities. AAUW’s gender pay gap research, for instance, is often quoted as an authoritative source.

Over the last 130 years, AAUW has awarded over \$135 million in fellowships and grants to over 13,000 women and nonprofit organizations, in the U.S and abroad. In the 2022-2023 period, AAUW awarded 320 grants and fellowships, amounting to more than \$6 million.

AAUW provides numerous tools and resources, including webinars on various topics, salary negotiation skills, financial literacy workshops, career development, legal help.

We can be proud of our association with AAUW, its history and its future. We contribute through our local activities, our dues and our contributions to the AAUW Fund. We have come a long way in securing equal rights and opportunities for women and girls. As always, there is more yet to be accomplished.

In 2023, AAUW awarded \$6 million in Fellowships and Grants to women. Only the interest is used, allowing the completed national endowments to last into perpetuity. It generally takes the interest of several fellowships and grants to fund an AAUW Fellow/Grantee. Thanks to former and present members (and friends), since it's founding, AAUW Long Beach has donated over \$400,000 to the AAUW Fund to complete seven endowments in honor of our branch and branch members.



Below is a list of our completed endowments. Award amounts: International Fellows \$20 - 50K; American Fellows \$8 - \$50K; Career Development Grants \$2 - \$20K; Community Action Grants \$3 - \$10K; International Project Grants \$3 - \$10K; Research Publication Grants in Engineering, Medicine and Science \$10K - \$35K; Selected Professions \$20K.

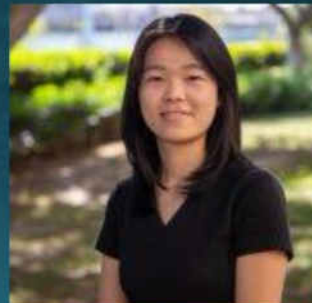
## AAUW Fund Fellowships and Grants Established & Completed by AAUW Long Beach

1. Anna Stoffet Townsend (Mrs. Ray Winthrop Townsend) International Fellowship Endowment (#1193) Established in 1965 and Completed in 1968.
2. Louise Ruth Arbogast American Fellowship Endowment (#1652) Established and completed in 1986.
3. Jean Aldrich, Long Beach Branch American Fellowship (#4412) Established in 2016 and completed by her family in 2018.
4. Joyce E. Clark, Long Beach Branch American Research and Projects Endowment (#1739), Established in 1988 and Completed in 1990.
5. Connie Wright Inskeep, Long Beach Branch Research and Projects Endowment (#1835), Established and Completed in 1995.
6. Ethel Black Research and Projects Endowment (#4130), Established and Completed in 2016.
7. Long Beach Branch, Inc. Research and Projects Endowment (#4289), Established in 2005 and Completed in 2008.

Hamee Yong is one of the fellows who has been partially funded by our branch. Her Selected Professions Focused Professions Fellowship is only open to women from ethnic minority groups historically underrepresented in certain fields within the U.S.: Black or African-American, Hispanic or Latino/a, American Indian or Alaskan native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders. These fields are MBA, MD/DO or JD.

## Louise Ruth Arbogast AAUW Fund American Fellowship Endowment 2023-2024 Recipient Hamee Yong

- Selected Professions Focused Professions Group Fellowship
- University of Southern California
- Juris Doctor Law
- Seeks to defend the rights of people of color, marginalized & accused as an aspiring public defender.
- Hopes to provide trauma-informed holistic indigent defense from criminal to immigration law
- Hopes to understand the role of human dignity and human rights as legal principles in fighting the oppression innate to the U.S. criminal legal system.



# 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. 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](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 February book selection is *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters. 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 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](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

## AUTHOR'S LUNCHEON SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024

Buy your tickets now for the Author's Day Event featuring mystery writer, Iris Yamashita. Iris was an Academy Award-nomination for the movie "Letters from Iwo Jima", directed by Actor Clint Eastwood. Come learn how this American-Japanese author started out studying engineering and ended up being a gifted murder mystery author. Her book "City Under One Roof" is unusual and captivating. See page 3 for info !

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

[aauwlong-beach.reservations@gmail.com](mailto:aauwlong-beach.reservations@gmail.com)

**Deadline to RSVP is February 25.**  
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, March 2, 2024**

**9:30 am Social Time**  
**10:00-11:00 Business Meeting**  
**11:00-12:00 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  
STAMP  
HERE

